

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends opening of DENTOMECH Toothbrush, Toothpaste Factory

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses Tatmadaw nursing, paramedical science graduates

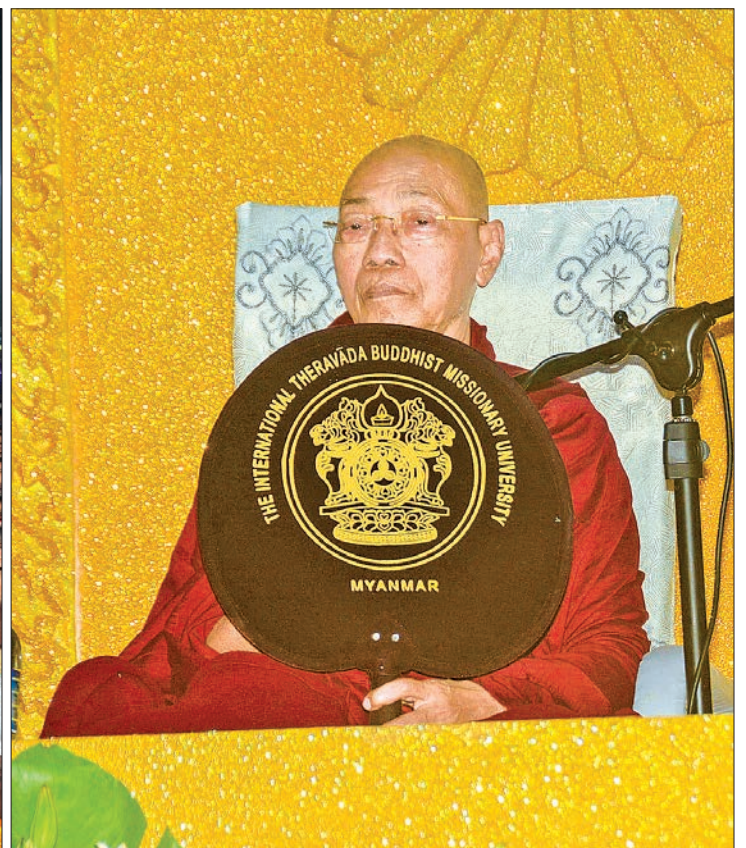
PAGE-3

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 262, 12th Waning of Nattaw 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Thursday, 3 January 2019



Rector Sayadaw Dr. Nandamalar Bhivamsa delivers the sermon to Buddhist devotees at the second day of New Year Dhamma ceremony in Yangon. PHOTO: YE HTUT

2nd day of New Year Congregation in Yangon attracts about 200,000 people

THE 2nd day of New Year Dhamma congregation organized by the Yangon Region Government held yesterday at the People's Park, attracting about 200,000 people.

Rector Sayadaw Dr. Nandamalar Bhivamsa delivered a sermon titled "Removing hatred from the heart".

The Yangon Region Government has been holding the three-day New Year Dhamma ceremonies since 2016.

The Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Nannisara will deliver a sermon at 7 pm today.

Among the congregation were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and wife, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, members of the Yangon Region Cabinet and MPs.

"With the help of well-wishers, I arrived here to listen to the Dhamma. This kind of Dhamma ceremony would benefit the country because it can give the knowledge to the people to reduce their excessive greed, anger and ignorance," said U Hla Tin of Dagon East

Township.

Meanwhile, Myanmar Red Cross Society was on standby to provide first aid to the people who gathered there.

"The ceremony is crowded. So, some aged people became light headed," said U Hla Myint of Kyimyindine Township Red Cross Society.

"I feel delighted to listen to the sermon here. I come here every year," said Daw Ni Ni Sein of Pabedan Township.

The Yangon Region Government has provided free ferry services to the people from

four districts in the region.

U Maung Maung Kywe, Chairman of the Transportation Subcommittee, said they have arranged free transportation for pilgrims throughout all 4 districts. In addition, donors will be operating rental vehicles and mini-buses free of charge.

Ko Thura Zaw from DSH Ship Company said he and his friends were volunteering at the Dhamma congregation. He said, "We distribute the donated food to the people attending the event. I believe everyone

will gain much dhamma insight and receive good merits from the ceremony."

This year's Dhamma congregation was attended by residents from townships in Yangon Region and other parts of the country.

Donors are providing charity food for people at the ceremony. Red Cross officers are providing healthcare protection and the regional police force is ensuring safety to the congregation. — Ye Khaung, Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye receives UNICEF Representative

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Bamauk monastery plans museum for royal articles donated by King Mindon, Chief Queen

PAGE-2



NATIONAL

Rice offering Ceremony: Myanmar-Thai Friendship Donation held in Tachilek

PAGE-6

NATIONAL

Rakhine State Gov't offers assistance to investors

PAGE-6

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends opening of DENTOMECH Toothbrush, Toothpaste Factory



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing formally opens DENTOMECH Toothbrush and Toothpaste Factory in Mingalardon Township, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

A CEREMONY to inaugurate the DENTOMECH Toothbrush, Toothpaste Factory took place in front of its factory near the Yangon-Pyay highway in Mingalardon Township, Yangon, yesterday morning, attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

First, Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC) Chairman

and Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Thet Pon and MEC Managing Director U Thant Swe cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the DENTOMECH Toothbrush and Toothpaste Factory.

Next, the Senior General pressed a button to unveil the DENTOMECH Toothbrush and

Toothpaste Factory and sprinkled scented water on the Factory's plaque. Afterwards, they posed for documentary photographs together.

MEC Managing Director U Thant Swe explained about the factory. Following this, Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC) Chairman and Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Nyo Saw pre-

sented the commemorative gifts to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and Commander-in-Chief (Air Force).

Afterwards, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services presented fruit baskets to the foreign technicians. Later, those present observed the process of producing toothbrush and tooth-

pastes at the factory.

The DENTOMECH Factory will produce hygienic and affordable toothbrush and toothpaste as import substitution that will be distributed to the market, according to the news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Bamauk monastery plans museum for royal articles donated by King Mindon, Chief Queen

A VILLAGE monastery in Bamauk Township is planning to set up a museum to display royal items donated by King Mindon and the Chief Queen.

The items donated to the Maha Gandhayon Monastery in Settaw Gone Yoe Village include 'Malika', a court dress for royal occasions, two white umbrellas, one umbrella handle, writs, palm-leaf inscriptions, two spittoons, and two wooden wardrobes with elephant tusks, according to the committee set

up for establishing the museum.

"We are working on establishing a museum to house the royal items, with the permission of the Presiding Sayadaw of the monastery. We hope the museum will encourage the spirit of conservation in the next generation so they work to preserve the items donated by King Mindon and Chief Queen Sekkya Dewi as part of our cultural heritage," said U Maung Thaung, a patron of the organizing committee for

the museum.

The Archaeological Department has asked the monastery to donate the royal items to it, if plans for the museum do not materialize, he added.

A request for setting up the museum has been made to the Sayadaw with the aim of giving the current and younger generations an opportunity to study the royal items, he said.—Win Oo (Zayar Taing) ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



71st Anniversary of Independence Day flag hoisting ceremony to be broadcast live

A flag hoisting and saluting ceremony to mark the 71st anniversary of Independence Day will be held in front of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw at 7 am on 4th January.

The ceremony will be broadcast live, starting from 6:40 am by the Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) and Myanma Radio.—MNA ■

"Gila" (The Hero) film of Rawang ethnic group to be discussed

"Gila" (The Hero) film created by Rawang people will be screened and discussed at a theatre in Film Development Centre at No. 50, Shwe Taung Kyar Street, Bahan Township, Yangon from 12 noon to 4 pm on 5 January.

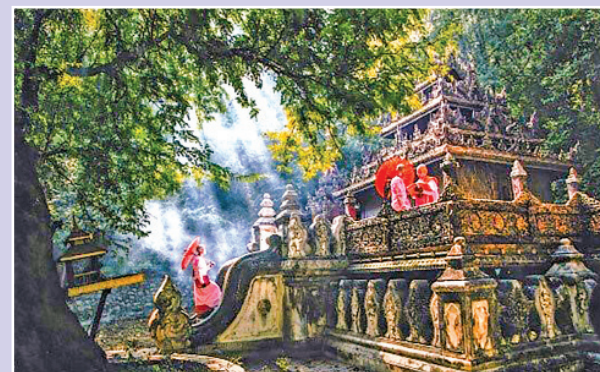
The film will be showed under the title, "Ethnic Groups and Myanma Film" and D Htel D who is the filmmaker and script-

writer L Min Pyae Mon will lead the discussion.

Film Development Centre of the Film Promotion Department under the Department of Information and Public Relations Department holds film analysis program with the aim for the development of script section.—MNA ■(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

“Myanmar is now on the path to democracy. A nascent democracy can be compared to a toddler learning to walk; we have to be careful not to falter at this stage and need to maintain a proper balance. If we wish democracy to survive, we have to respect the rule of law and existing rules and regulations.”

(Excerpt from the message extended by President U Win Myint on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy which falls on 15th September, 2018.)



Ancient Heritage Yoke Soun Kyaung and Nuns.
PHOTO: ZAW ZAW WEI (SINBYUKYUN)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses Tatmadaw nursing, paramedical science graduates

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services, Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing, attended the passing out parades of the 16th Intake of the Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science and the 3rd Intake of the Lady Nursing Science yesterday morning at the parade ground of the Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon.

First, the Senior General received a salute and inspected the graduates, after which the passing out companies conducted a quick march and slow march past the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Next, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief presented awards to the graduating cadets. The Senior General conferred the best cadet award to Cadet Pyae Phyo Aung, best training award to Cadet Aung Hain Htet, and best academic award to Cadet Phyo Han Kyaw for the 16th DSINPS Intake. The Senior General conferred the best cadet award to Cadet Su Thet Paing, best training award to Cadet Su Lae Naing, and best academic



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the salute of graduation parade of the 3rd Intake of the Lady Nursing Science in Yangon.
PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

award to Cadet Yi Wai Oo for the 3rd Intake of the Lady Nursing Service.

In his speech to the graduating cadets, the Senior General said the medical personnel of the Tatmadaw work to uphold its 12 conventions. He said the DSINPS produces skilled and helpful medical personnel who will provide medical care and treatment to Tatmadaw personnel, family members and the public. He said the role of nursing and paramedical personnel has been promoted as they are now also serving on the battlefield

and in mobile medical groups providing medical services in ethnic regions.

The Senior General said the Tatmadaw is born from the public and comprises ethnic nationals as well. He said the Tatmadaw is protecting the livelihood of the people and the mobile medical team offers free medical services to every citizen across the country, including the border regions. He concluded his speech by urging the medical personnel to fulfill their duties in the mobile medical teams and provide medical services to the citizens of the coun-

try, which is also accomplishing the Tatmadaw's role of protecting the people of the nation.

The Senior General then received the salute of the graduating cadets and departed from the parade ground.

After the passing out parade, the Senior General met with the best cadets of the 16th Intake of DSINPS and 3rd Intake of the Lady Nursing Science and their parents in the guest hall of the Defence Services Medical Academy.

Later in the evening, the Commander-in-Chief and his

wife, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, attended a dinner hosted in honor of 16th Intake of DSINPS and 3rd Intake of the Lady Nursing Science at the convocation hall of the Defence Services Medical Academy. Also attending the dinner were Tatmadaw senior personnel and their wives, the commander of the Yangon Command, the rector of the medical academy, the graduating cadets and their families, and invited guests, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye receives UNICEF Representative

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received UNICEF Representative to Myanmar Ms. June Kunugi yesterday morning at the Ministry office Maykhala Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed the cooperation matters with UNICEF in order to carry out the national-level social protection strategic plan, the Children's rights law conducted by the Ministry with the help of Japan, UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), International for

Migration (IOM) and UNFPA to implement in the Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states, building Social Work Institute for the human development in Yangon, opening mother's care centres in states and regions, and sustainable cooperation. —MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye holds talks with UNICEF Representative Ms. June Kunugi in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Win Ko Ko Aung**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com
Nyein Nyein Ei,**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmdaily@gmail.com

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLM

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Write for usWe appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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.

Rakhine's MraukU cultural zone packed with holidaymakers on New Year's Day

LOCAL and foreign year-end holidaymakers thronged the MyaukU Archaeological Zone in Rakhine State on New Year's Day.

Famous pagodas and temples in the Mrauk U Township of Rakhine State, including the Shitthaung Pagoda, the Htukkanthein Temple, the Andawthein Ordination Hall, and the Yadanabon and Mahn Ngar Parr pagodas, were teeming with crowds on 1 January, a public holiday.

Murals depicting the life of the Buddha on the walls of the Yan Aung Zeyya temple, also known as the Shitthaung Pagoda, and ancient pagodas such as Mingala Manaung, Yadana Manaung, Sakya Manaung, Zina Manaung, and Lawka Manaung pagodas also attracted visitors. The holidaymakers visited the



People visit Shitthaung Temple, MraukU, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MRAUKU (IPRD)**

cultural spots of Rakhine on rented cars and boats.

Rakhine ethnic utensils, stone sculptures, sculptures of

Buddha, silver coins, and musical instruments displayed at the Rakhine State Cultural Museum and the palace grounds of the

Royal Residence of the Rakhine King also proved to be a big draw for visitors.—Mrauk U (IPRD) ■
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Elephant camp offers ride to pilgrims to Minbu Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda

ELEPHANT camp near Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda in Minbu has offered elephant ride to pilgrims as from 13 February.

The elephant camp is set to open by 13 February, 2019, in conjunction with the Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda Festival as the guidance of the Magway Region Government, said U Hla Than, In-Charge of the elephant camp.

"The initial estimated cost for the camp is K 30,447,200. Currently, there are only 8 elephants in the camp and we will add more 7 elephants, and will operate with

a total of 15 elephants in the camp," said U Hla Than.

"The time of riding elephant is set from 8 am to 11 am every day. The elephant ride costs is set to K 5,000 per person," he added.

The elephant camp will be built on an estimated 810 acres of land, and 700 acres will be used as pasture. The elephant camp is located on the side of 8 miles road to the Mann Shwe Settaw pagoda about 3 miles away from the Mann Shwe Settaw pagoda.—Myo Myat-Minbu District IPRD (Translated by JT) ■



Visitors ride on elephants in the elephant camp near Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda in Minbu. **PHOTO: MYO MYAT (MINBU DISTRICT IPRD)**

473 accidents claimed over 100 lives on Yangon-Mandalay expressway in 2018

A total of 473 traffic accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway led to the loss of 103 lives in 2018, according to the Myanmar highway police office. A total of 877 people were injured in the accidents.

Reckless driving, over-speeding, defective vehicles,

and inclement weather were identified as the main causes of accidents on the country's roads and expressways.

There were fewer deaths in 2018 compared with the previous year. In 2017, a total of 555 collisions on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway left 116 dead and

863 injured. In 2016, a total of 744 traffic accidents were reported, with 107 killed and 1,304 injured.

A total of 453 road accidents left 124 dead and 1,033 injured, according to statistics from the Highway Police Force.

To reduce road accidents, the traffic police are conducting

regular awareness talks and distributing pamphlets. There are 24-hour services on the highway for the safety of travellers. Traffic accidents can be reduced if people cooperate on road safety, said an official from the Highway Police Force.—Nyein Nyein ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Shwebo's glazed earthen ware makers turning to other businesses

THE number of glazed earthenware makers in Kyaukmyaung Town, Shwebo District, Sagaing Region has declined significantly with many taking up other businesses, said locals.

Glazed earthenware businesses are mostly operating

out of Nwe Nyein, Shwe Khon, Shwe Taik, and Ma Lar villages in Shwebo (Kyaukmyaung) Township. Earlier, about 3,500 households from the four villages were engaged in the pottery business. Now, only 28 people are practicing the craft. Others have

already turned to other businesses. "There is no market for glazed earthenware these days. So, some daily wage workers are facing difficulties, including technical challenges, and have taken up other jobs. The number of glazed earthenware makers

has markedly decreased after the earthquake in Thabeikkyin," said U Aung Zaw Oo, a pottery shop owner from Nwe Nyein Village. Many people in Myanmar prefer to use earthen pots to store drinking water.—Win Oo (Zayyadine) ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar moves to liberalize insurance market for foreign entities

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance issued an announcement yesterday to invite Expressions of Interest (EoIs) and Request for Proposal (RfPs) from local and foreign insurers to conduct business in Myanmar.

According to the ministry's announcement No. 1/209, the Financial Regulatory Department will help with clarifications and discussions on the EoIs and RfPs.

Under the Insurance

Business Law, Section 29, the Ministry of Planning and Finance, with the approval of the Government, may grant permission to a company which wishes to operate the business of insurance underwriting or insurance broking with foreign investment".

To develop the Myanmar insurance sector, the MoPF had, with the approval of the government, granted 11 insurance licenses to local companies in 2013.

The Myanmar Insurance Sector Liberalization Roadmap was approved by the Union Government to accumulate the investment needed for the country's economic development, and to develop the non-banking financial sector.

The local composite insurers have been mandated by the MoPF to operate as separate life insurance and non-life insurance entities paving a way for foreign entities to associate or partner with the

local insurers, as applicable.

The announcement stated that the following methods of licensing shall be implemented in accord with the Myanmar Insurance Sector Liberalization Roadmap:

- (a) Life Insurance Companies
- Option 1: Allowing not more than 3 licenses for foreign life insurers as 100% wholly owned subsidiaries;
 - Option 2: Allowing foreign life insurers with a life/

composite representative office in Myanmar to form joint venture with local life insurers.

(b) Non-life Insurance Companies

Allowing foreign non-life insurers with a non-life/composite representative office in Myanmar to form joint venture with local non-life insurers.

For more details, please visit www.frd.gov.mm.—MNA

(Translated by AMS)

Domestic fuel prices continue to slide

By Nyein Nyein

THE price of oil has continued to decline in the domestic market on weak cues from the global oil market, which is bracing for a price slump, and the US dollar's depreciation against the Kyat, according to local fuel stations.

On 1 January, domestic fuel prices stood at K695 for Octane 92, K760 for Octane 95, K870 for diesel, and K875 for premium diesel.

"Transportation costs will decline when oil prices drop. Thus, high commodity prices may see a fall. We would prefer lower fuel prices," said a taxi driver.

In the first week of Decem-

ber, fuel prices stood at K840 for Octane 92, K895 for Octane 95, K995 for diesel, and Ks1,010 for premium diesel. On 14 December, the prices slipped to K795 for Octane 92, K860 for Octane 95, K955 for diesel, and K965 for premium diesel. Oil prices remained low in the last week of December, too. On 28 December, fuel prices stood at K695 for Octane 92, K760 for Octane 95, K870 for diesel, and K875 for premium diesel, according to the rates set by the Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association.

In June last year, domestic fuel prices were on the rise on the back of an increase in global crude oil prices and the weak-



Workers refilling cars with petrol and diesel at the filling station in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

ening of the Kyat against the US dollar. On 10 October, oil prices stood at K1,065 for Octane 92, K1,115 for Octane 95, K1,085 for diesel, and K1,105 for premium diesel. Fuel prices had touched a low of K520 for Octane 92, K630

for Octane 95, K470 for diesel, and K460 for premium diesel in January end, 2016.

Myanmar imports 90 per cent of its fuel oil, while 10 per cent is produced locally.

The country mainly buys

fuel from Singapore, importing 200,000 tons of gasoline and 400,000 tons of diesel every month. There are 2,000 fuel stations and 50 oil importers in Myanmar. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Manufactured goods exports up \$500 mln in current FY

MYANMAR earned US\$1.754 billion from the export of manufactured goods in the first three months of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, an increase of over \$500 million, or 40.9 per cent, compared with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

During the same period in the 2017-2018FY, the country exported manufactured goods worth \$1.244 billion, with private sector exports reaching \$605 million and public sector exports

totalling \$639 million.

Between 1 October and 31 December, the private sector exported manufactured goods worth \$1.216 billion, an increase of \$576 million from the corresponding period in the previous fiscal. Meanwhile, public sector exports declined by \$66.9 million to touch \$538 million.

In the last three months, the country also exported agricultural products worth \$647 million, animal products worth \$149 million, marine products worth

\$207 million, minerals worth \$274 million, forest products worth \$43 million, and other miscellaneous products worth \$187 million. According to the ministry's statistical report, Myanmar's exports of manufactured goods totalled \$4.533 billion in the mini budget period between April and September 2018, with the public sector earning \$1.6 billion and the private sector fetching \$2.932 billion.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Border trade at Chinshwehaw shows slight decrease in current fiscal

Myanmar's border trade with China through the Chinshwehaw gate between 1 October and 21 December totalled US\$137.96 million, a decrease of \$12.2 million compared with the corresponding period of the 2017-2018FY, according to data released by the Commerce Ministry.

Exports through the border gate showed a decline compared with the same period in the previous fiscal year. The value of exports totalled \$125.6 million, surpassing imports, which were registered at \$12.3 million.

Myanmar mainly exports pulses, corns, sesame, rice, rubber, fisheries, sugar, and sugarcane to the world's most

populous country, China, while it imports fertilizers, construction materials, and consumers goods.

Myanmar-China trade totalled \$852.7 million at the Muse gate, \$37.46 million at Lwejel, \$17.64 million at Kanpikete, and \$1.02 million at Kengtung. Between 1 October and 21 December, trade at Kanpikete and Kengtung gates increased slightly compared with the same period in the previous fiscal. Trade declined at the remaining gates.

In the first two and a half months of the current fiscal, Sino-Myanmar trade fell to \$1 billion from \$1.4 billion in the previous fiscal.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Rice offering Ceremony: Myanmar-Thai Friendship Donation held in Tachilek

RICE offering ceremony to 500 members of Sangha was held at the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge (1) in Tachilek, on January 1, 2019 at 7:30. a.m.

The donation ceremony was taken place for the first time and which aims at enhancing the bilateral relationships between Myanmar and Thailand.

At the ceremony, Colonel Aye Min Oo, District Administrator U Myint Naing, departmental heads, local dignitaries and donors offered rice and provisions to members of the Sangha including nuns.—Wai Yan Lin (IPRD) ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Buddhist devotees donate offertories to Sayadaws at Myanmar-Thai Friendship Donation ceremony in Tachilek on 1 January 2019. **PHOTO: WAI YAN LIN (IPRD)**

Sagaing seeks funds from Union Gov't to resume excavation of WWII-era Japanese hospital

THE Sagaing Region Government is seeking technical and financial support to continue excavation work at the WWII-era underground hospital used by Japanese troops in Indaw, said the region's Chief Minister, Dr. Myint Naing.

"Our budget is not enough to carry out the whole project. We will seek the Union Government's advise on continuing the excavation," said Dr. Myint Naing.

"We have excavated some sections of the hospital, but work on the remaining portions needs to be conducted systematically, so a request will be submitted to the government," he said.

The hospital was discovered near Kyar Inn Village, Indaw Township, Sagaing Re-

gion, in November, following which local authorities and residents began excavation work. The Chief Minister inspected the site on 26 December. Work is currently suspended at the site due to lack of funds and technical problems.

As the underground hospital is very old, there are difficulties in excavating the building just as it was.

Initial excavations have unearthed utensils belonging to Japanese soldiers, swords, guns, helmets, bullets, and hospital equipment at the site.

Like the ruins of the hospital in Indaw, there is an airfield dating to the Japanese era in Katha.—Ko Min (Indaw) ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing and officials inspect utensils unearthed at the site of WWII-era underground Japanese hospital. **PHOTO: KO MIN (INN DAW)**

Rakhine State Gov't offers assistance to investors



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu addresses the Rakhine State Investment Committee Meeting 1/2019 in Sittway yesterday. **PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)**

RAKHINE STATE Chief Minister U Nyi Pu has offered the regional government's assistance to potential investors to Rakhine State as the government is inviting investment for the development of the State.

The Chief Minister made the comment at the Rakhine State Investment Committee Meeting 1/2019 in Sittway yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, U Nyi Pu, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Rakhine State Investment Committee, (RSIC), said the Rakhine State Government is inviting investments for the devel-

opment of the state and will have to oversight the operations and developments of the companies in accord with the agreements that are applicable to the State.

He also stressed the importance of granting permits to further companies in accord with the rules and regulations.

Afterward, Dr. Htoo Min Thein, Director of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, and also the secretary of the committee explained and reported matters related to status of implementations on the reso-

lutions of the meeting of 4/2018 and three investments of a one hundred per cent owned by Myanmar citizen which reported in the meeting of 1/2019.

The Chief Minister and committee members suggested and discussed on the reports.

The Chief Minister and committee members gave the investment permits to Su Htoo San Company Limited, U Soe Khant and Family Company Limited, and Shwe Hlyan Phyo Company Limited which got endorsement permit from RSIC.—Tin Tun (IPRD) ■ (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Drugs seized in Maungtaw

POLICE seized drugs worth K390 million from a woman travelling in a car from Maungtaw to Taungpyo yesterday.

The woman, identified as Ma Waing Chay, also known as Khin Sandar Than, of Taungpyowe

Village in Maungtaw Township, had hidden 195,000 Yaba tablets in her bag, said police.

Upon further investigation, the police also arrested her husband, Min Min, who had asked her to carry the drugs.

The Kyein Chaung Police have registered a case against the couple under Section 19-A/21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws, Religious Affairs Union Minister arrive back home from Thailand

A MYANMAR delegation comprised of Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, arrived back in Yangon from Bangkok, Thailand, on Tuesday evening.

The delegation was welcomed by officials from Department for Promotion and

Propagation of the Sasana and International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University at Yangon International Airport.

The delegation attended the ceremony for New Year's Eve Chanting & Practicing Insight Meditation (Vipassana) held in Bangkok from 28 December 2018 to 2 January 2019.—MNA ■
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Dr. Kumara Bhivamsa and Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko are welcomed by officials at Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Authorities provide fertilizer to farmers in Yedashe Tsp

BAGO Region Government provided compound fertilizer to farmers in Yedashe Township yesterday as their farmland were covered with sand in August-29 dam collapse last year and some were destroyed by erosion in 2018.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein and the officer of the Bago Region Agriculture Department U Hla Myint handed over 292 bags of compound fertilizer for 1461 acres of farmland which was covered by sand and damaged by erro-

sion in 2018 to representatives of the farmers.

They also provided cash assistance K 59.9 million to buy paddy seeds to the farmers.

Before the presentation at the ceremony held at the General Administration Department in Swa, U Hla Myint, officer of the Bago Region Agriculture Department, explained matters relating to providing compound fertilizer to destroyed farmland.—Yedashe IPRD ■

(Translated by JT)

Shooter of 4 border guard caught dead in Myawady

SAW Pay Pay, the man who fatally shot a corporal and three other privates of the Border Guard Force (BGF) and injured a civilian on 1 January in Myawady Township, Kayin State, was captured dead near Mae Ka Nae Village yesterday, according to Colonel Maung Maung Latt of the South-East Command.

"Saw Pay Pay and BGF officers got into a disagreement and fired shots around 8 pm on 1 January," said Col Maung Maung Latt. "A corporal and three privates were killed around 8:50 pm. Saw Pay

Pay ran away and he shot a civilian riding a motorbike, who I think was a carry driver. The driver is alive and currently at Myawady General Hospital. We pursued Saw Pay Pay and captured him dead at 11 am yesterday."

The colonel said Saw Pay Pay is not part of the border guard force stationed in Myawady Tsp. They are still investigating the cause behind the shooting.

"Saw Pay Pay is not from BGF. He used to serve in the DKBA (Democratic Karen Buddhist Army). We don't

know how or where he came from on the night of the incident. Since both the shooter and the victims are dead, we will have to rely on eyewitness accounts," said Colonel Maung Maung Latt.

The colonel said they will follow the Tatmadaw procedures to investigate the incident and will follow military protocol in prosecuting the culprit. With all four victims dead, we are working with the tactical operations commander in Thingun Nyi Naung, said the colonel.—Ye Khaung Nyunt ■
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Tropical Storm Pabuk to pass Kawthoung on 5 Jan

TROPICAL Storm Pabuk (36W) is continuing along its trajectory from the South China Sea, heading in an east/northeastern direction. The storm will pass Kawthoung and Myeik townships in Taninthayi Region. The Directorate of Hotels and Tour-

ism has suspended all trips to Kawthoung District from today onwards.

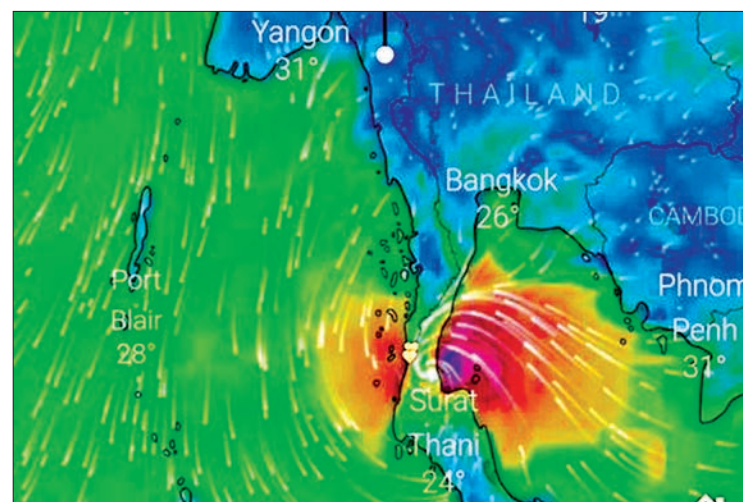
The storm is predicted to pass close to Kawthoung and Myeik and head towards the Andaman Sea on 5 January. It will head northeast and pass Coco-

gyun on 7 January, and continue into the Bay of Bengal.

Local authorities have issued warnings to residents, tourists and tour operators in Kawthoung District.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) ■
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Photo shows an aerial view of Kawthoung. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**



Sovereignty and independence

ANATION is said to be sovereign if it upholds the three pillars of democracy — the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary. In addition, its people must enjoy authentic freedom.

We can say there is freedom and sovereignty in a country if its citizens can access the three pillars of democracy in line with the established laws of the land, and the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary, are in turn, accountable to the people.

But even a free sovereign state can be called authoritarian if its people do not have freedom of thought, expression, belief, vocation, association, or action. A truly free sovereign state must ensure justice, liberty, and equality to strengthen peace and stability.

These considerations were reflected in the preamble to the

1947 constitution of the Union of Burma and in our resolution for independence. Before our country achieved independence, our forefathers swore to make Myanmar an independent sovereign state built on liberty, justice, and equality, the birthright of every citizen.

One cannot enjoy these rights and opportunities under the administration of foreign entities. And though there may be more mobility under a kingship or an authoritarian administration, there cannot be fair and equal opportunity. Discrimination is not acceptable to our people anymore.

There are still countries which have a king or a queen, but they do not have a monarchy. Their real power lies in their parliament, elected by

the people, and comes to life in the three pillars of democracy, without which they cannot claim to be truly independent and sovereign.

Myanmar is now an independent, sovereign nation with a democratic system and representatives elected by the people. After independence, Myanmar held its first general election to establish the resolutions for independence, and continues to do so.

As citizens of a free and sovereign nation, we must unite to protect and uphold the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for as long as the free and peaceful world exists.

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.).—Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

The Architect of Sovereignty, and Myanmar's First Independence Day

An Interview with veteran journalist Hanthawaddy U Ohn Kyaing
Interviewers: Ye Gaung Nyunt and Nandar Win
PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

(CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY)



Hanthawaddy U Ohn Kyaing.

Question: Please explain on the experience of first Independence Day of Myanmar.

Answer: It is my pleasure and honor to talk about the episode on the first Independence Day of Myanmar. Now, I am ninety years old, and that if I die, no one could be there to talk about the memories of the first Independence Day event.

Despite my desire in submitting all the documentary photos to the public, they were damaged due to many reasons. You may use the available photos, and that I will explain the events in detailed.

At the time that we regained independence, the condition and status of our country was fine as we achieved full sovereignty and independence. Our neighbor India sought dominium status for one year under the British influence, but our Bogoyoke sought for total independence. Time flew away for (71) years, and that we have been celebrating Independence Day each and every year. However, only a few persons talk about the detailed event that had taken place on the first Independence Day.

Allow me to talk about the first celebration of Independence of Myanmar. We regained independence on the dot of 4:20 am in the early morning of 4 January 1948. All the citizens of the country in every nook and cranny, rural and urban, were fully awake for the whole night waiting for the prime time of liberty under the cool win-

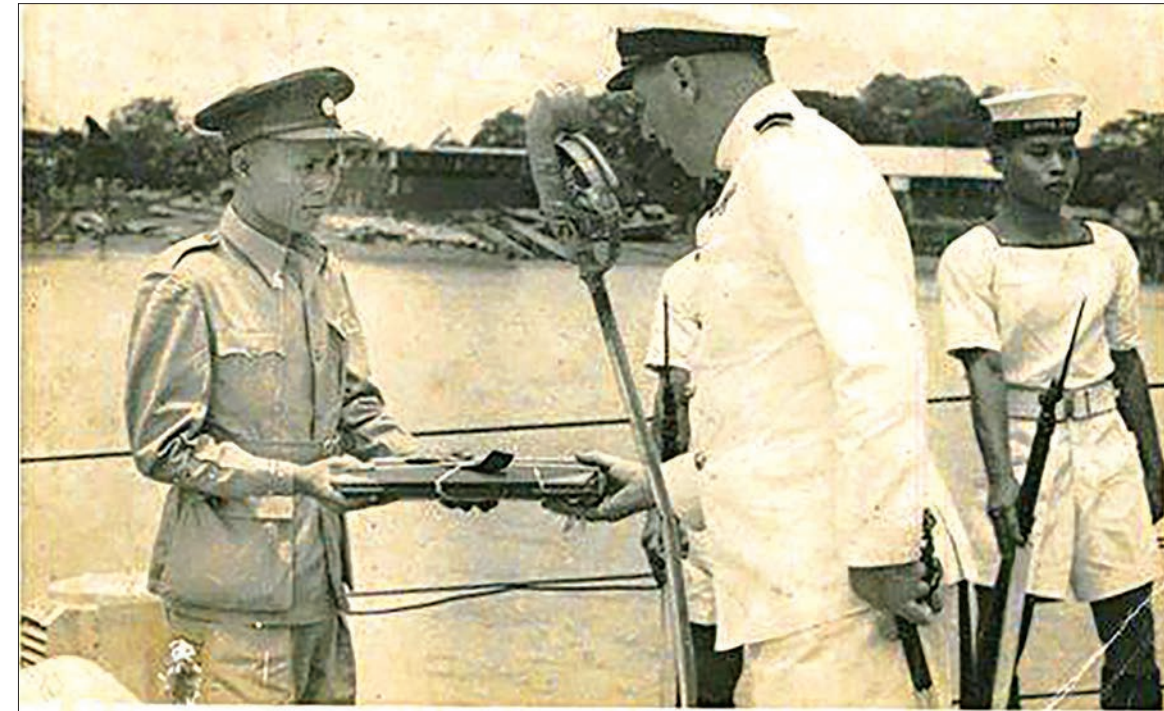
ter breeze.

The first Independence Day was celebrated in magnificence and grandeur under three separate agendas. The first event was the flag raising ceremony in reflecting the achievement of Independence and sovereignty. The second episode was the departure of British Governor from Myanmar. The third experience was the formation of Myanmar government at the constituent assembly.

On 4 January 1948 at 4:20 am, the nation became an independent republic, named the Union of Burma, with Sao Shwe Thaik as its first President and Thakin Nu as its first Prime Minister and Hluttaw Speaker Pyawbwai U Mya. Unlike most other former British colonies and overseas territories, it did not become a member of the Commonwealth.

All the journalists gathered at the center of the Secretariat, and all the elected lawmakers were there. A military band composed of Kayin Rifles (Kayin National Troop) alongside the Burma Defense Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Police Force was present there.

A team of traditional Royal Drum was there and the song of



blew the conch shell.

President Sao Shwe Thaik adorned in neat Shan attire with pink color silk head gear, and that Prime Minister Thakin Nu was also in elegant Myanmar attire were seen among the gathering. Furthermore, Pyawbwai U Mya was in smart Myanmar attire. Government officers and secretaries were also there.

Exactly at 4:20 am, British flag Union Jack was lowered down by a British officer, and then Myanmar

hands of Prime Minister Thakin Nu, and the ceremony adjourned on the first part.

Second part of the ceremony

The second part of the event was the departure of British last Governor Sir Hubert Rance from Yangon, which was started on the green lawn of the Governor House on Windsor Road at 6:45 am, the same day.

The President and the Governor came out together from the House, and took position on the dais. The British flag Union Jack was lowered and the State flag of Myanmar was raised, while the HMS Birmingham warship anchored in the Yangon River fired (17) cannon shots as gesture of honor.

Next, the Governor stepped down from the rostrum and shook hands to all officers individually and then climbed on the waiting vehicle that drove away to Pansodan Jetty at Yangon River where HMS Birmingham was waiting. The episode was the end of British rule over Myanmar for (120) long years.

The Third part of the event

The Hluttaw of the sovereign nation convened for its first meeting at the Secretariat's Assembly Hall at 10.15 a.m. the same day, and the Speaker and the lawmakers were sworn in. The President arrived at 10.30 a.m and delivered the Independence Day speech.

Next, the attending persons remained in two minutes silence in tribute and memory of Bogoyoke Aung San, the fallen leaders, soldiers and patriots. Later, the President entrusted the state seal in the

ized society and community of the country in conjunction with the abolition of beggars in the nation. After approving the documents, the Hluttaw adjourned.

Members of Government constituted on Independence Day

The portfolios of the ministerial posts were allocated to Thakin Nu as Prime Minister; Bo Letya as Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister; ICS U Tin Htut as Foreign Minister; Myanma Alin journalist U Tin as Minister of Finance and Revenue; Saw San Pho Thin as Minister of Kayin Affairs; U Tun Myint (Lin Kyay) as Minister of Shan State; Samar Duwar Sinwan Naung as Minister of Kachin State; Saw Wunna as Minister of Kayinni State (Now Kayah State); U Wann Thu Maung as Minister of Chin State; U Ba Gyan as Minister of Justice; U Ko Ko Gyi as Minister of Commerce, Civil Supply and Transport; Thakin Tin as Minister of Forestry and Agriculture; U Kyaw Nyein as Minister of Home Affairs; Mann Win Maung as Minister of Road Communication, Construction and Labor Affairs (Later served as President); Bo Pho Kun (Major Pho Kun) as Minister of Rehabilitation; Hinthada U Mya as Minister of National Planning and Industry; U Nyo Tun as Minister of Information; Bo Sein Hman as Minister without portfolio. The names of the Cabinet Ministers were announced, and the event came to a close.

Should upkeep and maintain valuable items

I would like to point out that we are generally weak in preserving valuable items that belongs to our history. The British Union Jack flag that we had lowered down and the first Myanmar flag that we had raised on the flag pole on 4 January 1948 were kept by one of the Myanmar officers it was learned.

Up till now, we have no idea in which record office, museum or archive that the flags have been kept and maintained. We heard that the items are there. Suppose we could find out and preserve properly for the public eyes, then we would be proud of for such possession of historically valuable items in our hands.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 1/2019

11th Waning of Nattaw, 1380 ME
(2 January 2019)

Appointment of Deputy Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 234 section (a),(d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 16 (b) sub-section (9) of the Union Government Law, U Tin Myint has been appointed as Deputy Minister for the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government.

Sd/
Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Wednesday 2 January 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain has been scattered in Eastern Shan State. Weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Southern Shan and Kayah states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (2°C) below January average temperature in Northern Shan State, (2°C) above January average temperatures in Bago and Ayeyawady regions, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states, (3°C) above January average temperature in Kachin State and (5°C) above January average temperature in Eastern Shan State and about January average temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (-1°C) in Haka, (2°C) each in Heho and Ramthlo, (3°C) each in Hsipaw and Mogok, (4°C) each in Putao, Nawnghkio, Pinlaung and PyinOoLwin and (5°C) in Tiddim. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kengtung (0.16) inch.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the Tropical Storm (Pabuk) over the South China Sea is centered at about (285) miles South-Southeast of Ho Chi Minh (Viet Nam) and move Westwards slowly.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 3 January 2019: Rain will be isolated in Taninthayi Region and Shan State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Kachin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states 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 (3-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain in Taninthayi Region.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 January 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 January 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 January 2019: Generally fair weather.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS (Issued at 08:15 hour MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.9) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (12) miles northwest of Mohnyin), latitude 24.92°N, longitude 96.27°E, depth (10) kilometers, about (51) miles north of Katha seismological observatory was recorded at (07)hr (43)min (09)sec MST on 2 January 2019.

Hong Kong leads Asia markets down as 2019 starts on sour note

HONG KONG (China)—Asian markets sank on Wednesday, starting the new year by extending a slide that made 2018 the worst in a decade, with investors jolted by data reinforcing weakness in China's economy.

With a number of potential banana skins dotting the next 12 months — including the China-US trade row and Brexit — dealers are keeping to the sidelines as they look for signs of stability.

Hong Kong led the losses, tumbling more than two per cent, while Shanghai shed one per cent after two indicators showed Chinese manufacturing activity shrank in December. The readings, from the government and another a private survey, are the latest to highlight problems in the world's number two economy following a slew of downbeat figures including on trade, factory output and inflation.

"The disappointment that came through in December has transferred into January as well," Jingyi Pan, a market strategist at IG Asia, told Bloomberg News. She added that the reading was a reminder of the US-China trade tensions and "brings back to the surface worries on growth". There were also market losses in Sydney, which dropped 0.7 per cent, while Seoul shed one per cent and Singapore slipped 0.9



Asian Market. PHOTO: AFP

per cent. Taipei and Jakarta also fell. Tokyo and Wellington were closed for public holidays.

Trump deal call

Investors were also spooked by the ongoing US government shutdown, which is now in its second week. Donald Trump on Tuesday invited leaders from both parties to talks to end the standoff but with Democrats refusing to pass any budget that would fund the president's Mexican border wall there is little optimism a deal can be made. For their part, Democrats, who take over the

House of Representatives on Thursday, have lined up spending bills without addressing the wall. Trump appeared to strike a more conciliatory tone on Twitter by reaching out to Nancy Pelosi, who is set to become House Speaker again. "Border Security and the Wall 'thing' and Shutdown is not where Nancy Pelosi wanted to start her tenure as Speaker! Let's make a deal?" he tweeted.

Also on the radar are trade talks between China and the US, which are set to begin this month, with Trump hailing "big progress" on the issue at the

weekend. The president and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping agreed last month to a 90-day halt in their painful tariffs spat so they could resolve their differences. Immediate attention is now on the release Friday of US jobs data, which could provide fresh evidence of the state of the world's top economy.

A strong reading would put pressure on the Federal Reserve to continue to lift interest rates, a negative for stock markets, which were battered last year partly by concerns about the rising cost of borrowing. — AFP ■

Viet Nam imports fewer automobiles in 2018

HANOI—Viet Nam imported completely-built automobiles and components for assembly totaling nearly 5.4 billion US dollars in 2018, seeing a year-on-year drop of 2.6 per cent.

Specifically, the country imported roughly 81,800 completely-built automobiles worth nearly 1.8 billion US dollars, posting respective declines of 16 per cent and 19.9 per cent, according to its Ministry of Industry and Trade on Wednesday.

In December 2018, Viet Nam spent 307 million US dollars importing 14,500 automobiles and 270 million US dollars importing components for assembly. Early last year, few automobiles, especially cars, were imported to Viet Nam because traders were not well-prepared to comply with a new governmental decree which requires traders to provide more relevant certificates and to undergo more tests than before, according to local experts. In 2017, the Southeast Asian nation spent over 5.3 billion US dollars importing 94,000 completely-built automobiles and components for assembly. Meanwhile, its total automobile sales were 272,750 units, according to the Viet Nam Automobile Manufacturers Association. —Xinhua ■

S Korea's trade value hits record high in 2018 as export tops 600 bln USD

SEOUL—South Korea's trade value hit a new record high last year as export topped 600 billion US dollars for the first time in the country's history, a government report showed on Tuesday. Export, which accounts for about half of the export-driven economy, reached a record high of 605.5 billion dollars in 2018, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. It was up 5.5 per cent from the previous year, marking the biggest since the country began the outbound shipment in 1948. The country's export surpassed 500 billion dollars for the first time in 2011. Import advanced 11.8 per cent over the year to 535 billion dollars last year, the largest ever recorded by the economy.

Helped by the biggest export and import, the trade value posted a fresh yearly high of 1.14 trillion dollars in 2018, exceeding 1 trillion

dollars for the second consecutive year. Trade surplus amounted to 70.5 billion dollars, staying in the black for 10 straight years. The continued surplus came amid strong global demand for locally-made semiconductors, of which export jumped 29.4 per cent over the year to 126.7 billion dollars in 2018. Semiconductor was the country's sole export item that topped 100 billion dollars in outbound shipment last year. General machinery export surpassed 50 billion dollars for the first time in the country's history, while shipment for petrochemicals and oil products also exceeded 50 billion dollars for the first time last year.

Computer export kept an upward trend for four straight years thanks to robust demand for solid state drive, and textile shipment marked the first turnaround in four years on solid demand from emerging markets.

Automobile export fell 1.9 per cent last year on weak demand in the US market, and display panel shipment reduced on supply glut that led to lower product price. Steel export inched down 0.6 per cent on the US protectionist moves, and auto parts shipment dipped 0.1 per cent on soft demand from China and the Latin American countries. Export for telecommunication devices, such as smartphone, tumbled 22.6 per cent, and consumer electronics export retreated 18.3 per cent amid a stiffer competition and the local manufacturers that increased production in overseas factories.

Cosmetics export kept a double-digit growth for the seventh consecutive year amid the popularity of K-pop culture, and pharmaceuticals shipment gained 17.2 per cent as sales of some of locally-developed bio-

similar were approved in the United States and the European Union (EU).

By region, export to China, South Korea's biggest trading partner, reached a fresh high of 162.24 billion dollars last year, up 14.2 per cent from the previous year. Shipments to the United States, the EU and Japan also gained ground on demand for chips, general machinery and petrochemicals. Export to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) added 5.3 per cent to hit a new high of 100.28 billion dollars in 2018, topping 100 billion dollars for the first time. In December alone, export fell 1.2 per cent from a year earlier to 48.5 billion dollars. Import rose 0.9 per cent to 43.9 billion dollars, sending the trade surplus to 4.6 billion dollars. The trade balance stayed in the black for 83 months through December. — Xinhua ■

North American trade deal needs to be more inclusive, says Mexico

MEXICO CITY—A free trade agreement for the North American region needs to include more productive sectors and more of Mexico's regions, Mexico's Economy Ministry said on Tuesday. As 1 January marked the 25th anniversary of the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which was recently updated and renamed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), Mexican officials reflected on the economic impact of the accord. "While NAFTA has been a success for companies and consumers, the challenge remains to include more productive sectors and more of the country's regions," the ministry said in a statement. — Xinhua ■

Tear gas fired as dozens of migrants try illegal crossing to US

TIJUANA (Mexico)—US Border Patrol agents used tear gas and pepper spray to counter rock-throwing migrants when a group of about 150 tried to illegally cross the border from Mexico, leading to 25 arrests, the agency said on Tuesday. It is the second time since November that border officers have used tear gas during an attempted mass migrant crossing in the San Diego area.

The migrants in the latest case New Year's Eve were among 1,500 who have remained in Tijuana, Mexico, just south of San Diego, California, after a once-5,000-strong caravan of travelers—which raised the ire of President Donald Trump—largely gave up and dispersed. An AFP journalist reported the crowd size at about 100 and observed the group of Central Americans gathering around 8:00 pm Monday night (0400 GMT Tuesday) in an area called Playas de Tijuana on the Pacific coast, often used by migrants as a departure point for attempts to sneak across the border. There, the border is marked with fencing and a

large vertical plate that juts out into the water. On the other side of it, US border agents were seen mobilizing.

As night fell and people on both sides of the frontier prepared to celebrate New Year's Eve, the migrants tried to cross over but at least two smoke bombs were fired and they were ultimately held back. Those who tried to cross included adult men, women with small children and adolescents. After that attempt, part of the group stayed near the border and other Central Americans arrived to join them. Shortly after the New Year began, dozens of migrants stood on a hill from which they could see US border agents, who watched them closely. When people in this group rushed the border in a second incident, US authorities fired tear gas to disperse them, an AFP photographer observed.

In a statement, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said an initial group of 45 migrants turned back towards Mexico, due to the increased presence of Border Patrol agents. Shortly after, migrants



Central American migrants run away from tear gas thrown by the US border patrol, after they tried to cross from Tijuana to San Diego in the US, as seen from Tijuana, Baja California state, Mexico on 1 January, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

began throwing rocks over the fence at CBP officers. "Several teenagers, wrapped in heavy jackets, blankets and rubber mats were put over the concertina wire.

Border Patrol agents witnessed members of the group attempt to lift toddler-sized children up and over the concertina wire and having difficulty accomplishing the task in a safe manner," CBP said. It added that agents could not assist the children "due to the large

number of rocks being thrown at them."

Agents used smoke, pepper spray and tear gas "to address the rock throwers assaulting agents and risking the safety of migrants attempting to cross who were already on the US side," CBP said.

"The rock throwers were located south of the fence, in an elevated position both above the border fence area and the incursion attempt." — AFP ■

Trump 'looks forward' to new meeting with N Korea's Kim

WASHINGTON (United States)—President Donald Trump is looking forward to another summit with Kim Jong Un, he said on Tuesday, after the North Korean leader warned Pyongyang could change its approach to nuclear talks if Washington persists with sanctions.

"I also look forward to meeting with Chairman Kim who realizes so well that North Korea possesses great economic potential!" Trump said

in a brief tweet. The two leaders made global headlines with an unprecedented summit in Singapore in June, where they signed a vaguely-worded pledge on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

But progress has since stalled with the two sides disagreeing over what the declaration means, and the pace of US-North Korean negotiations has slowed, with meetings and visits cancelled at short notice.

The North is demand-

ing relief from the multiple sanctions imposed on it over its banned nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, and has condemned US insistence on its nuclear disarmament as "gangster-like."

Speculation of a second Trump-Kim summit has ebbed and flowed, with the US president saying that he hoped it would take place early this year.

But a proposed visit by Kim to Seoul before the end of December did not mate-

rialize. Culminating in late 2017, the North has carried out six atomic blasts and launched rockets capable of reaching the entire US mainland, but has now carried out no such tests for more than a year.

In his New Year speech Kim called for the sanctions to be eased, saying that the North had declared "we would neither make and test nuclear weapons any longer nor use and proliferate them," and urged the US to take

"corresponding practical actions."

If Washington instead continues with the measures, he added, "we may be compelled to find a new way for defending the sovereignty of the country and the supreme interests of the state."

He was willing to meet Trump at any time, he said.

Kim's remarks were "apparently designed to revive the momentum of the negotiations," South Korea's centrist Hankook

Ilbo newspaper said in an editorial on Wednesday.

But he was also "signalling that he would never be pushed around", it added. Joshua Pollack of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies tweeted that Kim was insisting "the onus is now on the US to deliver".

"The bottom line: Kim remains dug into the same positions on nuclear diplomacy he has occupied over the last six months," he added. — AFP ■

Encouragement for re-registration of all registered companies and entities

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration had announced on State Owned Newspapers in 22nd of June, 2018 regarding all registered companies and other entities under the Myanmar Companies Act 1914 and the Special Company Act 1950 will be required to re-register on (MyCO) registry starting from 1st August 2018 to 31st January 2019 during the 6 months re-registration period.

As paragraph 4(c) of Myanmar Companies Regulations 2018 mentioned, "If an existing company does not re-register on the electronic registry system within the re-registration period, the Registrar may strike its name off the register, and shall publish notice thereof in the Gazette, and, on the publication in the Gazette of this notice, the company shall be dissolved", Directorate of Investment and Company Administration encourages all registered companies and other entities under the Myanmar Companies Act 1914 and the Special Company Act 1950 to re-register on (MyCO) within the prescribed 6 months re-registration period.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Bangladesh arrests journalist over election reporting

DHAKA (Bangladesh) — A Bangladeshi journalist was arrested and another was on the run on Wednesday for publishing “false information” about voting irregularities in an election won by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, police said.

Hedayet Hossain Mollah, who works for the Dhaka Tribune newspaper, was detained late Tuesday under a controversial digital security law which rights groups say gives authorities broad powers to stifle dissent. Mollah was arrested

in the southern Khulna region after he reported that in one constituency 22,419 more ballots than the number of registered voters were cast, local police chief Mahbubur Rahman said.

“The actual votes cast were only 80 per

cent of the total votes,” Rahman told AFP, adding that Mollah was accused of “providing false information in an effort to make the election look questionable”.

If convicted Mollah could face up to 14 years in jail under a draconian

anti-press law that was toughed by Hasina last year.

The police chief said another journalist was wanted for questioning after a local government administrator filed a case against the two under the controversial law.

Hasina, 71, is accused of creeping authoritarianism, including muzzling the media and jailing prominent journalists such as Shahidul Alam, an award winning photographer, who spent four months in prison recently.—AFP ■

Xi pledges utmost sincerity for peaceful reunification, makes no promise to abandon use of force



President Xi Jinping. PHOTO: XINHUA

BEIJING — President Xi Jinping has pledged “utmost sincerity and greatest efforts” for the prospect of peaceful reunification, but he made no promise to abandon the use of force.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks on Wednesday in Beijing at a gathering marking the

40th anniversary of issuing Message to Compatriots in Taiwan.

While noting that “Chinese don’t fight Chinese,” Xi said peaceful reunification is in the best interests of compatriots across the Strait as well as the Chinese nation. “We make no promise to renounce the use of force and reserve the option of taking all necessary means,” he added.—Xinhua ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V YANGTZE GALAXY

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANGTZE GALAXY VOY. NO. (18156) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-1-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (019 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (019 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 03-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALBION BAY

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALBION BAY VOY. NO. (1358) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-1-19 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S CA SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. (1837-1838)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. (1837-1838) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 02-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)

PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0155-468N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0155-468N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 03-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (110 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (110 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 02-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (120 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (120 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 03-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Disasters rock Indonesia's '10 New Balis' tourism push

TANJUNG LESUNG (Indonesia) — Picture-post-card Tanjung Lesung was a cornerstone of Indonesia's bid to supercharge its tourism industry, boasting palm-fringed beaches, a towering volcano in the middle of turquoise waters and a rainforest sanctuary for endangered Javan rhinos.

But the beachside town now lies in ruins, pummelled by a deadly tsunami that has raised fresh questions about disaster preparedness and the future of a multi-billion-dollar push to replicate Bali's success across the South-east Asian archipelago.

The shattered community was hosting a pop concert when the waves crashed ashore last month, at night and without warning.

Several members of the Indonesian band Seventeen and more than 100 others at the Tanjung Lesung Beach Hotel were killed — about a quarter of those who died in the volcano-triggered tsunami.

A clutch of other area hotels was also devastated, with beachside cottages flattened and debris — chairs, tables and the band's audio equipment — scattered everywhere.

Tourism minister Arief Yahya, who ordered that the town be rebuilt in six months, brushed aside concerns sparked by the tsunami — which was triggered by a sudden eruption of the Anak Krakatoa volcano.

"Disasters can happen anywhere in Indonesia," he told AFP during a recent visit there.

"We need to have (tsunami) early warning systems, especially in tourist destinations. We're going to make that happen."

But some are less convinced, especially since disaster monitors became aware of the killer waves after they had already smashed into the coastline along western Java and southern Sumatra.

Blockbuster Bali

"It's going to be even more difficult to promote (the area), especially now that buildings are destroyed and the volcano is more active," said Tedjo Iskandar, a Jakarta-based travel analyst.

About 42 per cent of Indonesia's 14 million foreign tourists headed to the popular resort island of Bali last year, giving a \$17 billion boost to Southeast Asia's biggest economy.

The government picked Tanjung Lesung and nine other locations as part of its "10 New Balis" strategy, a plan unveiled in 2016 with an eye to courting Chinese, Singaporean and other investors as its push to hit 20 million tourists annually.

The list includes ancient Buddhist and Hindu temples, tropical islands near Jakarta, the Mount Bromo volcano in eastern Java, and a national park that is home to Komodo dragons — the world's biggest lizard.

But the killer tsunami has dealt a blow to plans to pump some \$4 billion into Tanjung Lesung.

And it is not the only spot in the government's tourism plan to suffer a disaster — natural or man-made — that could scare away tourists.

Lombok, next to Bali, was rocked by earthquakes in the summer that killed more than 500 and sparked a mass exodus of foreigners from the tropical paradise.

That was weeks after Lake Toba on Sumatra island — also on the "New Bali" list — was the scene of a ferry accident that left almost 200 people missing or dead.



This picture taken on 26 December, 2018 shows the area where the Seventeen pop band was playing when the tsunami hit the west coast of Indonesia's Java island on 22 December, at the Tanjung Lesung Beach resort in Tanjung Lesung, Banten province. **PHOTO: AFP**

Caught off guard

In May, Indonesia's second-biggest city Surabaya was hit by suicide bombings carried about by Islamist extremists, while Bali was rocked as the Mount Agung blew its top at the end of 2017.

The volcano is 75 kilometres (45 miles) away

from tourist areas and the eruption posed little danger to visitors, but it still left hundreds of thousands stranded as flights were cancelled.

Indonesia's upbeat tourism numbers plunged in the second half of 2018 after the Lombok quakes, a quake-tsunami disaster on

Sulawesi island that killed thousands, and a Lion Air plane crash in October which killed all 189 people on board.

Indonesia is one of the most disaster-prone nations on Earth, straddling the Pacific Ring of Fire, where tectonic plates collide.—AFP ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Kinue SHIMOMURA, a citizen under the laws of Japan, who is resident at #1303 Wellith Roppongi, 3-18-2 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

KANJYOUNMONJYUSHI

Reg. No. 12307/2018

In respect of **Class 14**: Precious metals; precious stones and synthetic precious stones; key fobs of metal; jewelry boxes; prize cups; commemorative shields; personal ornaments; clocks and watches.

In respect of **Class 16**: Industrial packaging containers of paper; containers made of paper; plastic bags for packaging; flags of paper; banners of paper; towels of paper; table napkins of paper; handkerchiefs of paper; printed paper for lot; paper and cardboard; stationary; printed matter.

In respect of **Class 18**: Bags; pouches; industrial packaging containers of leather; vanity cases, not fitted; umbrellas; walking sticks.

In respect of **Class 20**: Cushions; Japanese floor cushions (zabuton); pillows; mattresses; industrial packaging containers of wood; industrial packaging containers of bamboo; industrial packaging containers of plastics; boxes of plastic; nameplates and door nameplates; hand-held flat fans; hand-held folding fans; letter boxes; furniture; screens [furniture]; Oriental folding partition screens (byoubu); ritual equipment; picture frames.

In respect of **Class 24**: Woven textile goods for personal use; Futon quilts; bed sheets; pillowcases; blankets; table napkins of textile; banners and flags; wall hangings of textile; curtains; draperies [thick drop curtains]; red-and-white striped curtains.

In respect of **Class 25**: Clothing; footwear; Japanese style wooden clogs (Geta); Japanese style sandals (Zori); masquerade costumes; clothing for sports.

In respect of **Class 27**: Gymnastic mats; Japanese rice straw mats; floor coverings; wall hangings.

In respect of **Class 28**: Toys; dolls; Go games; traditional Japanese playing cards; dice; Japanese dice games (Sugoroku); conjuring apparatus; playing cards; Japanese playing cards (Hanafuda); mah-jong; sports equipment.

Kinue SHIMOMURA claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the mark as mentioned above. Kinue SHIMOMURA reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., DIPL, (H.G.P.)

For **Kinue SHIMOMURA**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 3rd January 2019

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGE Invitation for Prequalification

Date: 7th January 2019

Loan Agreement No.: MY-P15

IFP No: MYA/MOC/EWEC/PACKAGE2/PQ

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the East-West Economic Corridor Improvement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.

2. The Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction, Myanmar intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for **Package-2, Construction of Gyaing Zathapyin & Atran Bridges.**

3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in the end of March 2019.

4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.

5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the office of Director General, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction from **10:00 hrs. to 14:00 hrs. on working days till 21st January 2019.**

6. A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested Applicant(s) on the submission of a written Application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **500 USD.**

7. Applications for prequalification should be **submitted** in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address above by **21st February 2019**, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for East West Economic Corridor Improvement Project (EWEC) for Package-2, Construction of Gyaing Zathapyin and Atran Bridges.

U Shwe Lay
Director General
Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction
Building No.11, Nay Pyi Taw, MYANMAR
+95-67-407069, 67-407514, +95-9-448541027
Email: mrshwelay@gmail.com, irsection.dob.moc@gmail.com

Connecting Yangon with Chengdu three times a week from December 2018

YANGON International Airport (YIA), Myanmar's largest and busiest airport, now directly connects Yangon with Chengdu, China with thrice-weekly flights operated by Myanmar National Airlines (MNA). Travelers can now enjoy MNA's non-stop flights from Yangon to Chengdu starting 28 December.

Utilizing a B738 aircraft (164 seat capacity)/ E190 aircraft (100 seat capacity) for the new service, MNA has set the fare for a round trip from Yangon – Chengdu– Yangon starting from

330 USD. Chengdu is MNA's 6th international destination.

The celebration event was held at Terminal 1 and graced by U Win Khant, permanent secretary of Ministry of Transport and Communications, U Min Lwin, Director General of Department of Civil Aviation, Ms. Li Xiaoyan, Counselor of the People's Republic of China Embassy, Capt. Than Tun, CEO of MNA, Mr. Ho Chee Tong, Chief Executive Officer of Yangon Aerodrome Company Limited (YACL).—GNLM



Myanmar International Airline aircraft.

Florence museum demands Germany return artwork stolen by Nazis

ROM (Italy)—The Uffizi Gallery in Florence on Tuesday appealed to Berlin for help in retrieving a stolen 18th century Dutch painting from a German family.

"An appeal to Germany for 2019: We wish that the famous 'Vase of Flowers' by Dutch painter Jan van Huysum that was stolen by Nazi soldiers be returned to the Uffizi Gallery," the museum's German director Eike Schmidt said.

According to Schmidt, the oil painting is "currently held by a German family who, after all this time, has still not returned it to the museum despite many

requests by the Italian state."

Before it was stolen during World War II, the still-life, which measures 47x35 cm (18x14 inches), was part of a collection owned by another well-known Florence museum, the Palazzo Pitti.

After being shipped to Germany the work's whereabouts remained unknown until 1991, after Germany was reunified, Schmidt said.

Van Huysum was a well-known specialist of still-life paintings, and until this one is returned, "the wounds of the Second World War and Nazi terror will not be healed," the

museum director claimed.

Schmidt, who is also an art historian, urged Germany "to abolish the statute of limitations for works stolen during the conflict and ensure they can be returned to their rightful owners."

In the meantime, a black and white copy of "Flower Vase" was hung on Tuesday at the Uffizi Gallery, with the word "stolen" in English, German and Italian on it.

A brief explanation tells visitors that the work was stolen by Nazi soldiers in 1944 and is now in a German private collection.—AFP ■



Florence Uffizi Galleries director Eike Schmidt posing past a copy of the "Vase of Flowers". PHOTO: AFP

Ancient Jerusalem attracts growing Chinese tourists

JERUSALEM—Jerusalem, an old city in the Middle East considered holy by Jews, Muslims and Christians, has seen a growing tourism sector in recent years, particularly an increase of Chinese tourists to the city.

According to the annual tourism report of Britain-based Euro-monitor International, there was an increase of almost 40 per cent in the number of tourists to Jerusalem in 2018, making it one of the fastest growing destinations in the world. Doron Spielman, vice president of the City of David foundation in the center of Jerusalem's Old City, said there have

been common grounds between the Chinese and Jewish people.

The Chinese people love coming here and seeing a wall which was built by Jews at the same time as the Great Wall of China, Spielman noted.

As part of its attempt to lure more Chinese tourists, the City of David park announced earlier last month that it had translated its popular night-time sound and light show into Mandarin, the official language of China, so that biblical characters now speak Chinese to tell the ancient story on the walls of Jerusalem's Old City.—Xinhua ■

Emperor Akihito greets well-wishers in final New Year's address

TOKYO—Emperor Akihito spoke of his hopes for world peace on Wednesday in his final New Year's address from the throne, with a record number of well-wishers expected to visit the Imperial Palace during the course of the day.

"I hope this year will be a good year for as many people as possible," said the emperor, who waved to the crowd from behind the windows of a balcony at the palace together with his wife Empress Michiko and other members of the imperial family. "At the beginning of the year, I

pray for the peace and happiness of the people of our country and the world."

On 30 April, the 85-year-old emperor will become the first Japanese monarch to abdicate in about two centuries after indicating in 2016 his wish to retire, citing his concern that he might not be able to fulfill his official duties due to his advancing age.

His eldest son Crown Prince Naruhito will ascend the Chrysanthemum Throne on 1 May.

A total of five greeting sessions were scheduled to take place on Wednesday, three in

the morning and two in the afternoon.

One year ago, he offered greetings to 126,720 well-wishers, the largest number of visitors to the palace for his New Year address since he ascended to the throne in 1989.

With that record expected to be broken for this year's New Year's greetings, the Imperial Household Agency set up two huge screens, as it did for the first time on the emperor's birthday on 23 December, so that well-wishers could get a good view.—Kyodo News ■

‘We have a healthy spacecraft’: NASA succeeds in historic flyby of faraway world

TAMPA (United States) — NASA rang in the New Year on Tuesday with a historic flyby of the farthest, and quite possibly the oldest, cosmic body ever explored by humankind — a tiny, distant world called Ultima Thule — in the hopes of learning more about how planets took shape.

A series of anxiously awaited “phone home” signals arrived after 10:30 am (1530 GMT), indicating that the spacecraft had made it, intact, through the risky, high-speed encounter.

“We have a healthy spacecraft,” said mission operations manager Alice Bowman, as cheers erupted in the control rooms at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland.

About 10 hours earlier, NASA celebrated the New Year’s flyby, as mission managers — alongside kids dressed in space costumes — blew party horns to mark the moment at 12:33 am (0533 GMT) when the New Horizons spacecraft aimed its cameras at the space rock four billion miles (6.4 billion kilometres) away in a dark and frigid region of space known as the Kuiper Belt.

More images and data will start arriving later Tuesday, of-

fering scientists the first up-close look at an ancient building block of planets, Bowman said.

The flyby took place about a billion miles beyond Pluto, which was until now the most faraway world ever visited up close by a spacecraft. Hurtling through space at a speed of 32,000 miles per hour, the spacecraft made its closest approach within 2,200 miles of the surface of Ultima Thule. “This is a night none of us are going to forget,” said Queen guitarist Brian May — who also holds an advanced degree in astrophysics — and who recorded a solo track to honour the spacecraft and its spirit of exploration.

Lead planetary scientist for New Horizons, Alan Stern, said Ultima Thule is unique because it is a relic from the early days of the solar system and could provide answers about the origins of other planets. “The object is in such a deep freeze that it is perfectly preserved from its original formation,” he said. “Everything we are going to learn about Ultima — from its composition to its geology to how it was originally assembled, whether it has satellites and an atmosphere and those kinds of things — are going

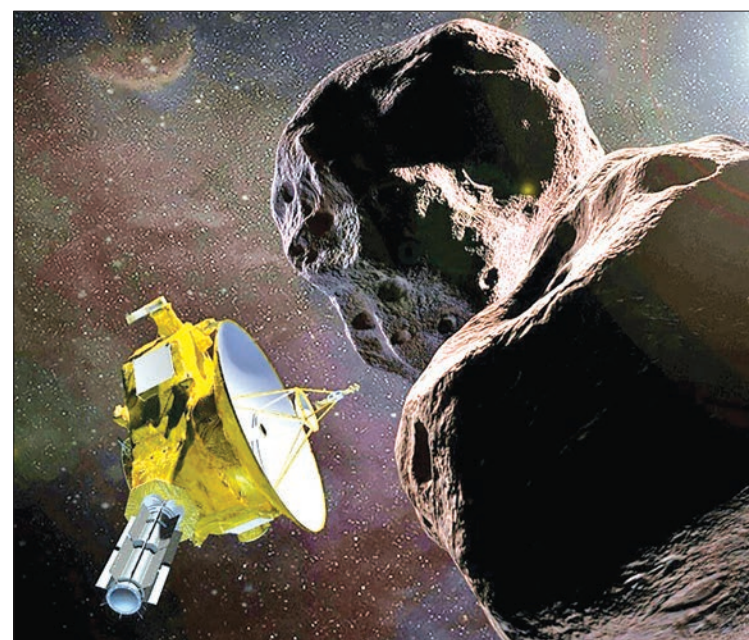
to teach us about the original formation conditions of objects in the solar system.”

Coming into focus

Scientists are not sure exactly what Ultima Thule (pronounced TOO-lee) looks like — whether it is cratered or smooth, or even if it is a single object or a cluster. But a new, though still blurry image released on Tuesday showed its oblong shape resembles something like a bowling pin or a peanut, and its dimensions are about 22 miles long and nine miles wide (35 by 15 kilometres).

Stern said his bet is that the object is a single body, not two pieces orbiting each other, but he would wait until more, clearer images arrive Wednesday to say for sure. The highest resolution images are expected in February, Stern said. Ultima Thule was discovered in 2014 with the help of the Hubble Space Telescope.

Scientists decided to study Ultima Thule 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. Stern said the goal was



This artist's illustration obtained from NASA shows the New Horizons spacecraft encountering 2014 MU69 — nicknamed “Ultima Thule” — a Kuiper Belt object that orbits one billion miles (1.6 billion kilometres) beyond Pluto. **PHOTO: AFP**

to take images of Ultima that are three times the resolution the team had for Pluto.

Frontier of planetary science

Ultima Thule is named for a mythical, far-northern island in medieval literature and cartography, according to NASA.

Project scientist Hal Weaver of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory said humans 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 plane-

tary science,” said Weaver.

Another NASA spacecraft, OSIRIS-REx, also set a new record on Monday by entering orbit around the asteroid Bennu, the smallest cosmic object — about 1,600 feet (500 metres) in diameter — ever circled by a spacecraft.

NASA said the orbit some 70 million miles (110 million kilometres) away marks “a leap for humankind” because no spacecraft has ever “circled so close to such a small space object — one with barely enough gravity to keep a vehicle in a stable orbit.” — AFP ■

Global tech show to celebrate innovation amid mounting concerns

WASHINGTON (United States) — Amid trade wars, geopolitical tensions and a decline in public trust, the technology sector is seeking to put its problems aside with the Consumer Electronics Show, the annual extravaganza showcasing futuristic innovations.

The 8-11 January Las Vegas trade event offers a glimpse

into new products and services designed to make people's lives easier, fun and more productive, reaching across diverse sectors such as entertainment, health, transportation, agriculture and sports. “Smart” devices using various forms of artificial intelligence will again be a major focus at CES.

Visitors are likely to see

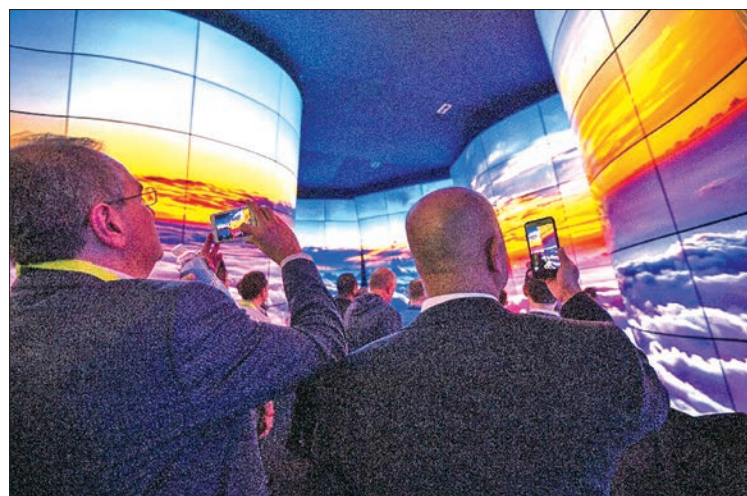
more dazzling TV screens, intuitive robots, a range of voice-activated devices, and folding or roll-up smartphone displays.

Also on display will be refinements to autonomous transportation and gadgets taking advantage of 5G, or fifth-generation wireless networks.

But the celebration of innovation will be mixed with concerns about public trust in new technology and other factors that could cool the growth of a sizzling economic sector.

“I think 2019 will be a year of trust-related challenges for the tech industry,” said Bob O'Donnell of Technalysis Research.

CES features 4,500 exhibitors across 2.75 million square feet (250,000 square metres) of exhibit space showcasing artificial intelligence, augmented and virtual reality, smart homes, smart cities, sports gadgets and other cutting-edge devices. Some 182,000 trade professionals are expected. — AFP ■



The Consumer Electronics Show is being held as the tech sector faces headwinds from trade and geopolitical frictions as well as consumer concerns about data privacy. **PHOTO: AFP**

Older patients of heart attack may benefit from moderate daily drinking: study

SAN FRANCISCO — Patients aged 65 or older who are newly diagnosed with heart failure may have a longer survival rate than those who never drink at all if they live on a habit of drinking one or two serving of wine every day, the School of Medicine of Washington University (WU) on the western US coast said in the latest study.

WU researchers examined data from a past study conducted from 1989 to 1993, which included 5,888 adults on Medicare, and discovered a link between consuming seven or fewer drinks per week and an extended survival rate of over one year, in comparison with the long-term abstainers.

Their study, which was published in the latest edition of JAMA Network Open, suggested that new older patients of heart failure can safely go on with their habit of drinking in moderate

amounts, about one serving of alcohol per day for women and two for men.

Among those patients surveyed in the study, they had an average of 383 days in extended survival rate, and they were 79 years old on average, with slightly more of them being women and 86 per cent being white.

“Our study suggests people who have had a daily drink or two before their diagnosis of heart failure can continue to do so without concern that it's causing harm,” said the study's senior author and cardiologist David L Brown, who is a professor of medicine at Washington University.

However, he said people who develop heart failure at an older age but have never been alcohol consumers shouldn't start drinking because the study has not yet established cause and effect between moderate drinking and longer survival rate. — Xinhua ■

Wozniacki cruises in Auckland ahead of Melbourne title defence

AUCKLAND (New Zealand)—Caroline Wozniacki began her warm-up for her Australian Open title defence with a comprehensive 6-3, 6-2 win over Laura Siegemund in the first round of the WTA Auckland Classic on Wednesday. The 28-year-old Dane, runner-up in Auckland last year on her way to winning in Melbourne, gave herself a pass mark against German qualifier Siegemund and said the signs were good. “I was a bit rusty out there. Playing my first match it definitely wasn’t my prettiest match but I just tried to hang in there, and tried to serve well and hit a lot of balls back and

tomorrow’s going to be better,” she said.

“I’m just so happy I’m back here and warming up in the same way and hopefully that will lead me to also having good luck in Australia this year. After a testing first few games, the world number three broke Siegemund in the fourth game and comfortably controlled the match from there.

Wozniacki will play Canadian qualifier Bianca Andreescu in the second round. In October, Wozniacki revealed she had been diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune disease which causes swelling of the joints and fatigue.—AFP ■



Denmark’s Caroline Wozniacki reacts as she plays against Ukraine’s Elina Svitolina during their singles match at the WTA Finals tennis tournament in Singapore on 25 October, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan’s Nishikori starts 2019 with win in Brisbane

BRISBANE (Australia)—Japanese tennis ace Kei Nishikori kicked off his 2019 campaign on a winning note on Wednesday, beating American Denis Kudla 7-5, 6-2 at the Brisbane International.

Nishikori, the world No 9 and second seed, fired seven aces and won 84 per cent of his first-serve points to book a spot in the quarterfinals against 2017 champion Grigor Dimitrov. The 29-year-old Japanese did not face a single break point and wrapped up the match against the world No 63 Bulgarian in 1 hour, 19 minutes.

“It was tough but I was able to play a good match,” Nishikori said. “The level of my opponent dropped a little after going 5-5 in the first set, and I was able to pick up my level and play aggressively.” “It was a good way to start this season’s singles matches,” said Nishikori, who reached November’s ATP Finals after

coming back from a wrist injury sustained in 2017. Nishikori has a 4-1 record against Dimitrov, who recorded his only win against the Japanese star in the 2017 Brisbane International final. In other matches, Japanese qualifier Yasutaka Uchiyama delivered the biggest upset of the day when he beat third seed Kyle Edmund of Britain 7-6(6), 6-4 and reached his first quarterfinal on the ATP Tour.

The 185th-ranked Uchiyama knocked out the No 14 Briton by hitting 15 aces against Edmund’s seven and saving all three of the break points he faced.

“I’m much more happy that I beat my opponent today than reached the quarterfinals,” Uchiyama said. “Playing a good match is different from forcing a win. Winning means a lot to me.” The 26-year-old Uchiyama will face France’s Jeremy Chardy for a semifinal spot.—Kyodo News ■

I’ll be back on the national team, says defender Kyaw Zin Lwin

FORMER defender of the Myanmar National Football Team, Kyaw Zin Lwin, has expressed his intention of playing for the national team again, said a source with the Myanmar National League (MNL). Kyaw Zin Lwin recently shifted to Ayeyawady United from the Magway FC, and is serving as a defender on the new club.

“Although I did get a chance to be on the national football team last year, there were some weak points in my play. But, I believe, I will be back in top form. I will give my best to my new team, Ayeyawady United, so I get a chance to play for the national team,” he said.

Speaking about his new club, the 25-year-old said: “I’m ok in my new club, Ayeyawady. The coaches, trainers, and players are all friendly. I will do my best to achieve wins for my team.”

Kyaw Zin Lwin plans to play in international football clubs in the future, according to the Myanmar National League website.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■



Ayeyawady United’s defender Kyaw Zin Lwin. **PHOTO: MNL**

Myanmar traditional Lethwei contest to be held in Toungoo

TO mark the Kayin New Year Day, a Myanmar traditional lethwei, or Burmese bare-knuckle boxing, contest will be organized at the Kaythu Madi Hall in Toungoo on 6 January, according to the Myanmar Lethwei (ML) webpage. Fighters from Thailand have been invited to participate in the event, which is being held to promote the martial art among

youngsters. The contest is being organized under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation.

The contest for men will feature three-round, four-round, and five-round bouts.

In the three-round bouts, Saw Thae Htoo will take on Kyel Sin Tun, Aye Min Ko will fight

against Htet Myat Thway, while Saw L Kalu will compete against Htet Naing Aung.

In the four-round bouts, Thway Thit will fight Saw Htoo Naing, and Myanmar’s Beiktha will come up against Thailand’s Phan Khun Thong. In the special five-round bout, Tun Naing Oo (Myanmar) will take on Laytha (Thailand).—Lynn Thit(Tgi)■

Arsenal bounce back to rout feeble Fulham

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Arsenal responded to their thrashing by Liverpool in the best possible manner reeling off a routine 4-1 humbling of struggling Fulham in their Premier League clash on Tuesday.

Swiss midfielder Granit Khaka had set Arsenal on their way with his fourth goal of the season. Alexandre Lacazette added the second after 55 minutes with their momentum temporarily halted as Aboubakar

Kamara pulled one back after 69 minutes. However, Welshman Aaron Ramsey came off the bench to make it 3-1 eleven minutes from time and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang added a fourth. Arsenal have yet to keep a clean sheet since beating Huddersfield Town on 8 December, but a second win in six matches saw them move on to 41 points two points off the Champions League places.

Fulham have shown little

sign of a recovery under Claudio Ranieri since he took over from the sacked Slavisa Jokanovic and are second from bottom.

The visitors did have their chances early on to break the deadlock.

First Fulham captain Tom Cairney sent Ryan Sessegnon clear of defenders with the simplest of passes only for the England under-21 star to sidefoot his shot wide of Bernd Leno’s goal.—AFP ■