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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends opening of Maggwayza-Mt. Sanlutchet road section,

inspects regional development works in Nagmon, Machanbaw and Putao regions

STATE Counsellor and Chairperson of Central Committee to Implement the Development of Border Areas and Ethnic Nationals Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Min Thu and U Ohn Win, Deputy Minister U Hla Maw Oo and officials left Nay Pyi Taw by special flight and arrived to Putao, Kachin State yesterday morning. The State Counsellor and party were welcomed at Putao airport by State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Khan Lin, state ministers, Hluttaw representatives, representatives of political parties, ethnic national cultural troupes and officials.

The State Counsellor and party went by motorcade to Malikha Lodge Hotel and at the hotel hall, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung explained about the status of constructing Maggwayza-Ngalondam-Ridam-Khaunglanphu (65 miles 4 furlong) road in fiscal year 2017-2018 and FY 2018-2019, road construction plan for FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021. Chief Engineer U Khin Maung Latt explained about engineering portion of Maggayza-Khaunglanphu road. Next State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspected a scale model of the construction of Maggwayza-Ngalondam-Ridam-Khaunglanphu (65 miles 4 furlong) road.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspects Malikha Suspension Bridge (Machanbaw) in Kachin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Afterwards the State Counsellor and party accompanied by State Chief Minister and state ministers reached the Maggwayza temporary pandal in Nagmon Township by Tatmadaw helicopters and attended the opening ceremony of Maggwayza-Mt. Sanlutchat (33 miles 6 furlong) road section. At the opening ceremony State Counsellor and Chairperson of the Central Committee to Implement the Development of Border Areas and Ethnic Nationals Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, "I am honored to be able to attend the inauguration ceremony for this road.

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Royal Thai Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin



C-in-C of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Royal Thai Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Royal Thai Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin at the Zeya Thiri Beikman yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that Myanmar and Thailand are old and good neighbouring countries, friendship between the two Tatmadaws is of great importance for both countries, which could help strengthen the friendship between the two countries, and thereby restore peace and stability of the border areas.

Next Royal Thai Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin expressed his gratitude for welcoming them with open arms, and he felt honoured to receive a honourary air corps wing medal that was conferred for the first time by Myanma Tatmadaw (Air) and efforts would be made to enhance the friendship and cooperation between the two Tatmadaws and the two Air Forces.

After that, they cordially discussed matters related to making official exchange visits of different ranks of armed forces that aims at promoting friendship and cooperation between the two Tatmadaws, implementation process of friendship sport events, cultural exchange shows among the two Tatmadaws, working to restore stability and peace of the border areas, and cooperation to prevent the natural disasters, according to a news release from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin receives Sir Simon McDonald, Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign, Commonwealth Office, UK

THE Union Minister for International Cooperation, U Kyaw Tin, received Sir Simon McDonald, the Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the United Kingdom, at 10:00 am. on 8 January 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the occasion were Directors Generals and officers concerned from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on bilateral relations and development cooperation between the two countries, the preparations and procedures for relocation of UK Embassy to Nay Pyi Taw, and the challenges facing Myanmar in its democratic transition process including the issue of Rakhine State.—MNA ■

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko attends Myanmar-China Pauk-Phaw friendship ceremony in NyaungU

UNION MINISTER for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko attended the donation ceremony of Myanmar-China Pauk-Phaw friendship to mark 58th anniversary of the Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai's visit to Myanmar, yesterday morning at the Premier Zhou Enlai's pavilion hall of the eastern part of the Shwezegone Pagoda in NyaungU, Mandalay Region.

At the ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang explained about the purpose of donation and Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko expressed his appreciation for the donation made.

Next, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and wife, Minister of Planning and Finance of Mandalay Region U Myat Thu, Myanmar-China Friendship Association Chairman U Sein Win Aung and officials donated the foodstuff, medicine and kitchen utensils worth K10 million to the 100 households in NyaungU Township.

— U Ye Win Naing (NyaungU) / *(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)* ■

MEEA to hold Ethnics Culture Festival in Yangon from 25 to 30 Jan

By Yi Yi Myint, Mi Mi Phyo



Press conference on holding Myanmar Ethnics Culture Festival held in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

MYANMAR Ethnic Entrepreneurs' Association (MEEA) is organizing a Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest in Kyaikkasan Ground, Yangon from 25 to 30 January and a press conference about the fest was held at Yangon Region Government Office yesterday afternoon.

At the press conference Yangon Region minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung said, "Today's press conference is held to inform the media about the aim of holding the 'Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest.' This is the first time in our country's history that such ethnic fest is held. The unity of ethnic nationals is very important. The fest is held as a small contribution toward the peace process in a way of a sand particle or a brick in a construction work." Next, MEEA General Secretary U Min Banya San explained about preparations made to hold the 'Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest' grandly.

Afterwards questions raised by the media were responded to by Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs and officials. The opening ceremony of 'Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest' will be held on 8 a.m. 25 January in Kyaikkasan Ground, Yangon. The fest will be held from 25 to 30 January and the entry is free.

At the fest, famous singers will entertain with songs and each ethnic national will perform a dance. There'll be Miss Ethnic Myanmar 2019, exhibits showing cultural traditions and livelihood of ethnic nationals, selling products produced by ethnic national business persons, Ethnic Night Market where food for all religions and ethnicities are available and photo opportunity sites where photographs can be taken.

Miss Ethnic Myanmar 2019 will be selected to promote traditional cultures of ethnic nationals and travel business. The winner will represent MEEA as an ambassador to promote friendship and peace among ethnic nationals. The first prize for the winner is K 15 million and a gold crown with 8 gems, first runner-up will receive K 7 million and other prizes while the second runner-up will receive K 3 million. Ten additional titles will also be awarded it is learnt.

Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest is held with the aims of showcasing friendship and unity of ethnic nationals; to support peace yearned for by the people; for local, foreigners and ethnic nationals to know, observe and visit the culture traditions and natural beauty of the ethnic nationals' lands in Myanmar; to develop travel businesses; to promote goods and products produced in ethnic nationals' regions; expand into international market and create job and business opportunities for young ethnic nationals it is learnt. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

The quality to strengthen friendship by embracing diversity must become the strength of our country: State Counsellor

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I am even happier to have the chance to meet with the local residents of our country. It's not easy to come here, but I do feel much closer with everyone after arriving nonetheless. Paving roads such as this one is mainly for our regional development. But more importantly, it also brings all ethnic nationals closer to each other. It's not easy to meet one another without any roads connecting us. Development is important for a country but even more important is the strength gained from unity. This is why I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the workers who built this road."

"I believe all the workers in the country are here. What I mean to say is every person from every region needs to participate in developing our nation. Also the lesson we can take from here is that this road was very difficult to pave. And no matter how difficult it was through perseverance and strong will we managed to complete the task. Then there is nothing we cannot accomplish."

"I've noticed that most of the ethnic nationals are small in stature. I think you all require more nutritious food. I'm sure this road would allow much more nutritious food to be transported to you. Everyone needs to help so that the Young Generation can grow up strong and healthy. Now that the road is finished we will be seeing more opportunities for development."

"All of our regional development efforts are for the benefit of all ethnic nationals so that they may grow both mentally and physically. We want everyone to enjoy the equal living standards. It is also the national pride to see every citizen living life at the same standard. It is not right for there to be a sizable disparity in the distribution of wealth in the country. This is related to transportation too, it'll be difficult for development to come if there are not good enough roads for a selected area. That's why I believe paving roads is a very honorable work."

Use the new road to build closer relations with each other

"In my travels around the country I have seen workers building roads everywhere. However many of the workers are from very far regions. For example, in Kachin State we saw a lot of workers from my father's homeland, Magway Region. Seeing ethnic Nationals going to other far away regions and states to help in any way they can is very inspiring for me. Likewise, it is equally inspiring to be gathered like this now. Thank you everyone for attending. I did not expect so many people to be gathered here today. Because I know it is still difficult to travel around here. But now we can see that motorcycles can access the roads more easily and people can move around quite easily too. I kindly urge all of you to use this opportunity to build closer relations with each other and to help each other more than you have before."

"You must strengthen your community so that you can strengthen yourself. No one can survive on their own. This is why I want you all to have a mindset of helping other regions in their development once we are developed. Each of us must protect our rights; but we must also carry out our responsibilities. We cannot just look out for one side."



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union ministers and Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung cut ceremonial ribbon to open the Maggayza-Mt. Sanlutchat (33 miles 6 furlong) road section in Kachin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

"Similarly, all governments receive their authority from the people and have the responsibility to perform the duties they have been entrusted with. Only by collectively taking responsibility will our nation develop. I feel energetic seeing the lush forests of Kachin State surviving till now. We can see the beauty and preciousness of our country. Each of us is responsible for protecting this beautiful country. We must be careful not to become indifferent to our surroundings we have stayed in for so long. We must cherish and safeguard it. It's true that it's not easy living here. But the difficulties that you overcome here will strengthen you."

That's why, it is important for us to conserve our country which owns beautiful natural resources. Sometimes, when development comes, natural environment goes some times. That's why, when we start to go for development, we must think about how to conserve the environment. We are responsible to teach our children to love and conserve the natural environment. Whether the parents are rich or not, have high-ranking positions or not, the best legacy they can pass down to their children is the right attitude. Everybody can do it.

Right attitude is a good legacy for next generation

If we cannot give a good legacy of right attitude, the children would not become helpful ones for others and finally they cannot be beneficial for themselves. Therefore, I would like to urge our citizens of the Union to do right and to have right attitudes so that we can give the right legacy to our children. Our country is home to a diversity of ethnic people, with different languages.

But, we don't need to be afraid of diversity. Diversity is a very interesting thing we own and is helpful for each other to give strength. The collective strength from different people is more powerful than the individual.

The quality to strengthen friendship by embracing diversity must become the strength of our country, said the State Counsellor.

We found the community of different ethnic people in this far-flung area and it shows the dignity and quality of local ethnic peoples for coexistence. Please conserve this quality because the quality to strengthen friendship by embracing diversity must become the strength of our country.

Today, we can see that communities which attach great attachment to loving kindness are decreasing in the world.

If we build a community which can work for development based on loving kindness, we can enjoy peace which is more valuable than others. We need to train ourselves to be spiritually developed and mature. At the same time, we need to work for enjoying physical development to a certain extent. Only when we can work taking a balance between the said two things, can our country be developed.

We inaugurated the road today. It means, we have shown the road to development. The road would be beneficial for the region only when there are road users. That's why please use this new road so that it becomes valuable. I would like you all to make the best use of this new road to know each other and to bring about unity, to carry out the development works in this region as much as possible and to use this new road so that this new infrastructure would benefit the local people. "

Following the speech of the State Counsellor, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Chairman of the Work Committee to Implement the Development of Border Areas and Ethnic Nationals Chairman explained about the construction of Maggwayza-Mt. Sanlutchat (33 miles 6 furlong) road section and road section to be constructed in the future.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets townselders and local people at Malikha Lodge Hotel in Putao, Kachin State, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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The opening ceremony of Maggayza-Mt. Sanlutchat (33 miles 6 furlong) road section was then continued at the start of the road section where State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Min Thu and U Ohn Win and Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the road.

After posing for commemorative group photos with the attendees the State Counsellor inspected the Maggayza-Mt. Sanlutchat (33 miles 6 furlong) road section and road by cars and cordially greeted the local people.

Later the State Counsellor left Maggayza for Khaunglanphu Town by Tatmadaw helicopter and met with Hluttaw representatives, political parties and departmental officials and local populace in the Khaunglanphu Town hall.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by local residents in Khaunglanphu, Kachin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

All ethnic nationals must have equal rights

At the meeting State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, "We are placing much emphasis towards development of far and remote places. It is important that there is equality everywhere. It is more important for difficult places. Support must be provided for less developed areas to develop quickly. In doing this it must be looked at from all angles of economic, social and politics. As our country is a union all ethnic nationals must have equal rights.

We are here to attend a road opening ceremony. However, we are taking this opportunity because we want to engage with the people as much as we can. Among the people, children are the most important, because the children are the ones who will serve the country for the longest. Only when the children are educated can our country's future be good. That is why we are placing emphasis on education and health.

Only when our people area healthy and educated can they serve for the good of the country. Much effort must be placed towards making the children in this region fully nourished. Only when they are nourished, strong and healthy can they serve the duties of the country. Only when they are educated can they help others.

As we meet with the local elders, let us know the main requirements of the region. Please discuss how and in what way the government can support and help. Forest reservation matters submitted by the locals are to preserve the nature for future. In conducting the preservation and conservation works, it will be coordinated with the economic and social requirements of the people. It is heard that the trees and plants in this region have medicinal values. We must think and do in such a way that such valuable matters support the locals.

Just as in the saying "don't let the snake die and don't let the stick break", it must be beneficial for both sides. The trees and plants must not become extinct and the livelihood of the locals must not be affected. The Ministry of Border Affairs had said that bridges are required to have a good road connection. We will place much emphasis to fulfill the bridge requirements as quickly as possible by coordinating with the Ministry of Construction.

I think the reason for the low success rates of youngsters in basic education level is the requirement to give trainings to teachers. We will make arrangements to conduct refresher courses for teachers so that they can teach the youngsters to attain higher success rates. We will also provide sufficient amounts of teaching aid materials.

I agree that a new hospital needs to be constructed for health. We'll coordinate with the Ministry of Health and Sports to do this as soon as possible. Similarly for farm lands we'll coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to develop fallow lands into cultivable lands."

After the State Counsellor had delivered her speech a local C Di Htar discussed about regional development matters.

After the meeting the State Counsellor presented food and dried goods consisting of rice, cooking oil, salt, beans, dried fish and instant noodles for the local people to the officials.

The State Counsellor and party then left Khaunglanphu for Machanbaw by helicopters. There, the State Counsellor inspected regional development status and upon arrival at Malikha Suspension Bridge (Machanbaw) Ministry of Construction, Special Bridge Group 1 Deputy Director U Saw Zarni Hla explained about the particulars of the bridge. After the explanation, the State Counsellor and party crossed and inspected the Malikha Suspension Bridge (Machanbaw). The State Counsellor and party then continued by car to Putao and inspected the Mulashidi suspension bridge for jeep on the Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road.

After inspecting the suspension bridge State Counsellor Daw Aung San Su Kyi met and was introduced in person to Putao Town people, local people and elders in Malikha Lodge Hotel. At the meeting the State Counsellor said she came to do the necessary in basic infrastructure required for the people. In doing so, she was glad to see the greenery and thriving natural surroundings. The open and candid comments and suggestions of the locals on peace, stability and development are requested and the government would do whatever it could to fulfill their requests.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for the documentary photo together with local people in Khaunglanphu. **PHOTO: MNA**

Peace, drug eradication, rehabilitation discussed

Local elders then spoke of the importance of achieving peace in Putao region, discussed drug eradication and requirements for rehabilitation, requirements for travel business development in Putao region, requirement of Putao circular road and bridges and giving priority to employing local graduates in local positions. The State Counsellor in return explained that matters will be conducted fairly and equitably in accordance with the government policy.

The meeting was attended by Lay Yin Kwin Ward Shan Culture Committee Chairman U Tin Hla, Hokho Ward Shan Culture Committee joint secretary Daw Swe Tun Tun Nwe, Pan Hlaing Ward Kaungmulone Trustee Board member U Saw Nwe Thaik Shwe who were Buddhists, Myoma Ward Yawem Literature and Culture Association Chairman U Mayit Yawshu, Lay Yin Kwin Ward Yawem Literature and Culture Association secretary U Sayit Dee, Dote Tan Ward Yawem Literature and Culture Association member U Dane Khan Dawi, Hoko Ward Lisu Culture Committee acting chairman U J Fada, Lone Sut Ward Lisu Culture Committee secretary U Di Diye, Lone Sut Ward Jinghpaw Vice Chairman U Sin Wa, Kaukkadaung Ward Jinghpaw Culture Committee secretary U Aung Kham who were Christians, Hoko Ward township development committee chairman U Akhiohta, Myoma Ward township development committee member U Khaw Du Sartan, Kaukkadaung Ward township development committee member U No Kham, Mulashidi Ward township development committee member U Yilisa, Daw Nan Sai from Kaukkadaung Ward, Myoma Ward township election sub-commission member U Malaung David, Hoko Ward township election sub-commission member Daw Lafigya, U Chan Gyaung Sar of Lay Yin Kwin Ward and district election sub-commission chairman U Htam Tan Firam from Lone Sut Ward. Later in the evening the State Counsellor and Putao town elders attended the dinner hosted by Kachin State government. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min, Zaw Htet Oo)

Governor of CBM receives Pyithu Hluttaw Banking and Financial Development Committee head, party

U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) received the Pyithu Hluttaw Banking and Financial Development Committee head Daw Khin San Hlaing and party at Zabhuthiri Hall of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 January.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the difference between real and fake K10,000 notes, foreign currency exchange rate, referenced rate by the CBM, the stability of foreign exchange markets, and the functions of the Central Bank of Myanmar.— MNA ■

(Translated by JT)



Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung holds talks with MPs from Pyithu Hluttaw Banking and Financial Development Committee in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

No trade on gold OSSC since September due to high tax rate

By Nyein Nyein

THE One Stop Service Centre (OSSC) for gold imports and exports has not seen any trades since its launch owing to the high tax rates, said U Min Min Oo, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

"The OSSC has been open for three or four months. But it has seen no gold exports on account of high taxes, which are posing as a barrier for businesses to start trade. We are trying to reduce the taxes and coordinating with the private sector to set a fair tax rate. As tax is the only source of government revenue, we are trying to strike a balance between the two parties," said U Min Min Oo.

"The OSSC for export and import of gold and related jewellery was opened at the Myanmar Culture Valley in People's Park, Yangon, on 24 September. But, no business has been conducted yet as traders are facing a slew of challenges," said Dr. Ye Thu Aung, the managing director of a gold development public company.

"The OSSC is at its trial stage. Our estimated income is around .5 to .7 per cent, while the withholding tax is set at 2 per cent. If the tax rate remains high, businesses could shoulder the burden. They are already facing difficulties in exports," said Dr. Ye Thu Aung. When it comes to exports, the quality of gold is an impediment to traders in a competitive market, he said.

"The standard quality of pure gold is accepted by internal buyers, but the external market has its own quality screening process. Depending on the result of the screening, the prices are set. The risk from exporting goal is considerable, and we need to find a way to overcome it," said Dr. Ye Thu Aung. For now, traders have requested the government to reduce the 2-per-cent withholding tax to zero per cent, said gold entrepreneurs. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Private sector imports of capital goods fall by $138 mln

THE value of capital goods imported by the private sector plunged by US$138 million in the October-December period, while imports by the public sector increased by $129 million, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar imported capital goods such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and airplane parts, with an estimated value of $1.47 billion between 1 October and 28 December. Compared with the same period in the previous FY, imports declined by $9.4 million.

In the past three months of the current fiscal year, Myanmar imported consumer products, such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil, worth $843.8 million. The value of consumer goods imported by both the public and the private sector declined by $45.6 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

Intermediate goods make a large share of the country's imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. During the October-December period, imports of raw materials fell slightly to $1.65 billion from the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

Compared with the 2017-2018FY, the import values of consumer, capital, and intermediate goods have seen a slight decrease in the current fiscal year.

From 1 October through 28 December, Myanmar imported raw materials worth $528.4 million for the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment sector.

The country's total imports were valued at $4.5 billion, an increase of $50 million from same period of the last fiscal. — Ko Htet ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

MRF Likely to miss export target of 2.5 mln tons this year: rice depots

By Nyein Nyein

THE 2.5-million-ton export target set by the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) for the period from April 2018 to March 2019 is likely to be missed, said rice depots.

"The target may not be achieved this year. During the last fiscal year, border exports of rice stood at 1.5 million tons and so did the maritime exports. We have been suffering from the suspension of rice trade by China and tight confiscation in the border areas. We do not expect to see exports of more than 2 million tons through normal trade," said U Than Oo, the Secretary of the Bayintnaung commodity depot.

The volume of rice exported to China through the Muse border gate has dropped by half, said U Min Thein, the Vice Chair of the Muse commodity.

"We expect export volume of 1.8 million tons at the most until 31 March. Low prices and tight confiscation at the border are hurting traders. Earlier, around 60,000 tons of rice flowed into China through the Muse checkpoint every day. Now, only 25,000 tons of rice is exported per day. The volume has dropped more than half," said U Min Thein.



Workers carrying rice bags at the Botahtaung Jetty in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Border traders planned to switch to the maritime trade channel, but a slew of challenges, including the fluctuation in the currency market, has hindered them, said rice merchants.

"Trade capacity via the maritime channel is limited owing to shipping problems, port logistics, and financial constraints. Additionally, the prices in the world market are decreasing. We cannot take risks, given the currency fluctuation. Therefore, the volume of rice exports is not likely to exceed 2 million tons, in any case," said U Than Oo.

In the last fiscal year (from April 2017 to March 2018), over 3.6 million tons of rice were shipped to foreign countries. Between 1 April and 14 December 2018, Myanmar exported only 1.5 million tons of rice, according to data from the MRF. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release No. 1/2019
2nd Waxing of Pyatho, 1380 ME
(7 January 2019)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 5 January 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of selling illegal drugs in east of Hopin Sub-Tsp, Mohnyin Tsp, Kachin State.	On 23-12-2018, while police were investigating near signboard of Hopin Township, police found suspect in farm beside of Myitkyina-Mandalay railway near signboard of the Hopin Tsp. Police arrested Aye Naing, 54, from Ward (2), (5) miles Village, together with heroin. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Hopin) MaYa(Pa) 96/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Thein Tan from Thin Paung Kyin Village, Kanbalu Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 28-12-2018, while police were investigating at one furlong away from Nyaung Zin Village, Kanbalu Tsp, one motorcycle driven by Thein Tan, 43, from Thin Paung Kyin Village was stopped for investigation then the suspect dropped the motorcycle and ran away. Police seized heroin. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Zeegone) MaYa(Pa) 6/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of selling illegal drugs in Oaksone Village, Htigyaing Tsp, Sagaing Region.	On 30-12-2018, police searched Maung Gyi's house in Oaksone Village, Htigyaing Tsp. Police discovered Maung Gyi, 37, together with crushed stimulant tablet powder. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Htigyaing) MaYa(Pa) 48/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Wai La from Ma Yin Gyi Village, Taninthayi Tsp, Taninthayi Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 24-12-2018, police searched Wai La (a) Wai Yan's house in Ma Yin Gyi Village, Taninthayi Tsp. The suspect ran away and police discovered WY psychotropic tablets, one pistol and homemade accessories, A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Taninthayi) MaYa(Pa) 31/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/22-B of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Daw Cho and her son, Nyi Htwe living in Thiri Myaing Village, Bokpyin Tsp, Taninthayi Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 26-12-2018, police searched Daw Cho's house in Thiri Myaing Village, Bokpyin Tsp. Police discovered Daw Cho, 43, and Nyi Htwe (a) Chit Min Thu, 21, together with WY psychotropic tablets and speciosa powder. A case has been opened against two suspects with MaMaSa (Bokpyin) MaYa (Pa) 49/2018 under Section 16-C/19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of selling illegal drugs on the hill in Group (10), Ward 4, Kutkai Tsp, Shan State (North).	So far 30 cases have been opened as of last weeks, 27 men and 3 women have been arrested, together with heroin and stimulant tablets. On 27-12-2018, further investigation led to patrol in Ward 4, Kutkai Tsp and police stopped a motorcycle driven by Nawmine, 25, from Daunglon Village then police arrested him together with psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa (Pa) 141/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 1-1-2019, further investigation led to patrol in Ward 4, Kutkai Tsp then police arrested Aye Zaw, 27, from Ward 5, together with '88/1' psychotropic tablets and heroin. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa (Pa) 1/2019 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of selling illegal drugs in Kanout and Phayarphyu wards, Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State.	On 29-12-2018, police searched Wai Phyo Aung (a) Myo Myo's house at No. (Ma/204), Area (12), Kanout Ward, Taunggyi Tsp, police discovered Wai Phyo Aung (a) Myo Myo, 21, and Kyaw Zin Htet, 19, from No.51, Area (5), and Aung Min Khant, 20, from Chanmyathazi Ward together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Taunggyi) MaYa(Pa) 51/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to the arrest of Chan Myae Ko Ko (a) A Gu (a) A Thay Lay, 19, living at No. (150), Phayagyi Street, Myoma Ward, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Taunggyi) MaYa(Pa) 52/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 30-12-2018, further investigation led to the search at Kalargyi(a) Aung Myint Oo's house in Kyaungsu Ward, Area (12), Taunggyi Tsp, police discovered Thet Paing Oo (a) Kyauk Khae, 17, from the same ward, Nay Lin Oo, 30, from Area (9), Kyaung Gyisu Ward and Hein Soe(a) Thiha, 30, from Area (7), Aye Thar Yar Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets and opium blocks. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Taunggyi) MaYa(Pa) 53/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, Police searched Thet Naung's house in Area (12), Phayarphu Ward, Pan Nay Kyar Street, police discovered Thet Naung, 44, and Moe Kyaw, 43, from Kyungyi (North) Village, Nyaungshwe Tsp, together with heroin and opium blocks. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Taunggyi) MaYa(Pa) 83/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of selling illegal drugs in Pan-htike (8) Ward, Namtu Tsp, Shan State.	So far 4 cases have been opened as of last weeks, 5 men have been arrested, together with heroin and stimulant tablets. On 1-1-2019, further investigation led to patrol in Pan-htike (8) Ward, Namtu Tsp and police searched near old cemetery then they discovered Aung Mine, 40, together with '88/1' psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Namtu) MaYa (Pa) 1/2019 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far 450 cases have been opened as of 5-1-2019, and 592 men and 111 women have been arrested with seizures of 5,664.17 g of heroin, 25.01 g of ICE, 38,573.84 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 18,795.28 g of opium powder, 7,273.99 g of speciosa, 206,001 stimulant tablets, 3701.03 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 268.06 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 3.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 14 firearms, 211 different bullets, and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.
4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.
   During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates. On Dhamayone Street, Aung Thar Ward, Pobbathiri Tsp, Nay Pyi Taw, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man and one woman were arrested with 193 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Myawady Ward, Nantsi Aung Village, Mohnyin Tsp, Kachin State, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 1,300 g of opium and one motor-

cycle. In Parpong Village, Bhamo Tsp, one woman was arrested with 1,500 stimulant tablets. In Sintkin Village, one woman was arrested with 540 stimulant tablets. In Weinkham Village, Lwejel Sub-Tsp, Momauk Tsp, one Alphard car was stopped for investigation then 484 g of heroin, 55,850 stimulant tablets and one car. In Zaypaing Ward, Loikaw Tsp, Kayah State, two men were arrested with 51 stimulant tablets. At a guest house in No (3) Ward, Pha-an Tsp, Kayin State, one man and one woman were arrested with1,400 stimulant tablets. In Zarthapyin Village, one man was arrested with 6,500g of speciose and 9 stimulant tablets. In Ward 5, Myawady Tsp, two men and one woman were arrested with 24 stimulant tablets then one man on the road of Ward 4 was arrested with 795 stimulant tablets. Further investigation led to the arrest of one man in Zayit Chaung Village was arrested with 5,765 stimulant tablets. In Yaytwinkone Village, Kyaikmaraw Tsp, Mon State, one man was arrested with 400 stimulant tablets. In Myaukpaing Ward, Kyaikto Tsp, one man was arrested with 763 stimulant tablets. In Ma Kyee Chaung Creek, near Pikeseik Village, Maungtaw Tsp, Rakhine State, one boat was stopped for investigation then four men were arrested with 465,500 stimulant tablets and one boat. In Latha (Upper) Village, one man was arrested with 92,820 stimulant tablets. In Latha (Lower) Village, two men were arrested with 5,626 stimulant tablets. At Kyein Chaung Checkpoint, one Noah car was stopped for investigation then two men and one woman were arrested with 195,000 stimulant tablets and one car. In Peze Village, Myomataung Ward, one man was arrested with 9,700 stimulant tablets. In Ywarthitkay Ward, one man was arrested with 65 stimulant tablets. In Myoma Market, one man was arrested with 388,050 stimulant tablets. In No. (3) Ward, Buthidaung Tsp, one woman was arrested with 730 stimulant tablets. Near Zale Village, Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 2,000 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Chanmyaetharzi Ward, while one stopped Hijet car was investigated then one man was arrested with 895 stimulant tablets and one car. In Kanmoh Village, one man was arrested with 1,054 stimulant tablets. On the road of Pinlong-Aungban, near the bridge, Kalaw Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then three men were arrested with 800 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. Near Phyonethel Mountain, beside of Indaw-Yaksawk road, Yaksawk Tsp, 6400 Liters of identified chemical solution without owner were discovered. On the Kaung Me Thin Village-Saung Pyaung Village road, Pinlaung Tsp, two motorcycles were stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 41,100 g of opium and two motorcycles. On the Myorksalone Villahe and Lonepyin Village, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 1,000 g of opium and one motorcycle. In Wahpyone Village, one man was arrested with 1,290 stimulant tablets, 1,200 g of opium and 3,100 g of marijuana. In Thantel Village, one man was arrested with 23,400 g of opium and one motorcycle. Near Kunhing Bridge, Ward 1, Kunhing Tsp, a stopped Nissan six-wheel truck without driver which got crashed into a pylon was investigated then one woman was arrested with 519,294 g of caffeine and one car. On Mongnai-Namhsan road, Mongnai Tsp, one Canter six-wheel truck was stopped for investigation then the driver ran away and 452,000 g of opium was arrested from the truck. On Minepyin Village-Kharsheout Village road, Lashio Tsp, one Wish car was stopped for investigation then 1,500 g of opium, 5 g of opium block, 5 g of low-quality opium and one car. At the junction of Honaung Village, Muse Tsp, one Isuzu 12-wheel truck was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 425,000 g of caffeine, 1750,000 g of Amoniumchloride and one car. In Tarkun Village, Namhkam Tsp, one man was arrested with 288 g of heroin, 1,500 g of opium and 47,365 stimulant tablets. In Kholone Village, Kutkai Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then 110 g of heroin, 2,000 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. Near direction signboard of Kutkai-Kaungkha road, a Mark-II car was stopped for investigation then the driver ran away and 1,936 g of heroin was discovered from the back seat of the car. Near Oriental Toll Gate, Nawnghkio Tsp, one Crown car and one motorcycle were stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 6,600 stimulant tablets, 12,902 g of opium blocks, one car and one motorcycle. Near Panhat Ward, one Dump Truck was stopped for investigation then three men were arrested with 41,800 g of heroin, 158,000 stimulant tablets and one car. In Pwelsarmeik Village, Mabein Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then 1,320 g of heroin and one motorcycle. On the road of Kyansat Village, Kengtung Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 1,209 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. Between (362/3) milepost and (362/4) milepost, Kengtung-Taunggyi road, Ward 1, Tontar Sub-Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 3,743 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Narkaungmu Village, Mongton Tsp, one woman was arrested with 1,300 g of opium. At Lwetawkham Checkpoint, Tachilek Tsp, two motorcycles were stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 10,165 stimulant tablets and two motorcycles. At Wailaylan Checkpoint, Mongphone (B) Group, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 6,000 g of ICE and one motorcycle. In Panin Village, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then 8,000 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. At a KTV in Setmuzone Ward, Monywa Tsp, Sagaing Region, while police was pretending to be a drug buyer, 55 g of heroin and 5,850 stimulant tablets from the delivery man. Near junction of Donowt Village, Katha Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man and one woman were arrested 5,700 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. At the junction of Nanmakyaing, on Shwebo-Myintkyina road, Indaw Tsp, two Vigo cars were stopped for investigation then five men and one woman were arrested 29,250 stimulant tablets, 9,240 g of heroin, 44,000 g of opium blocks and two cars. Near Khamauk Village, Kawlin Tsp, two men and one woman were arrested with 1,201 stimulant tablets, 1,720.66 g of opium and 16.33 g of low-quality opium. In Area (3), Tarhan Ward, Kalay Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 1,089 g of heroin and one motorcycle. Further investigation led to the arrest of one woman with 14,940 stimulant tablets. In Myoma (13) Ward, Tamu Tsp, one woman was arrested with 3.9 g of heroin, eight stimulant tablets and 10 Buprenorphine Tablets. In Htein Twin Village, Launglon Tsp, Taninthayi Region, one man was arrested with 2,600 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. Further investigation led to the arrest of two men with 7 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Padauk Shwewah Street, Tatpyin Ward, Kan Phar Area, Myeik Tsp, one man was arrested with 825 stimulant tablets. On Kone Phork road, Myeiktaung Village, two women were arrested with 200 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. Further investigation led to the seizure of 2,000 stimulant tablets from the suspect's house. Near Yay Pyae Aw Village, Kyunsu Tsp, one boat on the sea was stopped for investigation then six men were arrested with 1,009 stimulant tablets, 60 g of speciose powder and one boat. Near Moe Ma Lin Island, two boats were stopped for investigation then three men were arrested with 234 stimulant tablets, 9,150 speciose powder and two boats. Near Pan Taung Island, one boat was stopped for investigation then one man and one woman were arrested with 1,680 g of speciose powder and one boat. In Chaung Lamute Village, Taninthayi Tsp, one woman was arrested with 180 g of ICE. On Ma Yin Gyi Village-Aww Gyi Village road, a stopped Honda Fit car was investigated then one man was arrested with 3,130 stimulant tablets and one car. On Kawthoung-Myeik road, Kawthoung Tsp, between (233/1) milepost and (233/2) milepost, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 800 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Magyeetan Ward, Shwegyin Tsp, Bago Region, two men were arrested with 311 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. On Sone (9) Street, Sone Ward, Magway Tsp, Magway Region, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 196 stimulant tablets. Further investigation led to the arrest of 42 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle from the suspect's house. In Kyauk Twin Ward, Ngaphe Tsp, two women were arrested with 120 g of opium. On Moemyeik-Twinnge road, near Taung lal Village, Thabeikkyin Tsp, Mandalay Region, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 13,600 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. Near railway, milepost (31), Taunggyi-Meiktila road, Thazi Tsp, one car was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 12,000 g of opium. In Ward 2, North Okkalapa Tsp, Yangon Region, one woman was arrested with 57 stimulant tablets. Further investigation led to the arrest of one man with 1,220 stimulant tablets and 1.23 g of marijuana. In U Tun Myint street, Netmauk Ward, Tamway Tsp, a stopped Toyota Yaris car was investigated then one man was arrested with 430 Ecstasy Tablets, 1.6 g of Ecstasy Powder, 126.95 g of Ketamine and one car. In Ward 2, Pazundaung Tsp, one Crown car was investigated then one man was arrested with 1 Ecstasy Tablet, 0.6 g of ICE, 0.5 g of Ketamine, 1 stimulant tablet and one car. On Pathein-Ngapudaw road, No. (8) Ward, Pathein Tsp, Ayeyawady Region, one stopped Caldina car was investigated then one man was arrested with 160 stimulant tablets and one car. Beside Dedaye-Pyapon road, Dedaye Tsp, in front of Golden Club Restaurant, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 40 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. Further investigation led to the seizure of 160 stimulant tablets from the suspect's house in (14) Ward, Pyapon Tsp. There has been one seizure of ammunitions. In Settaw Village, Phaungpyin Tsp, Sagaing Region, one man was arrested with 0.8 g of heroin, one gun, 32.33 g of saltpetre, five bullets and one motorcycle. There have been two arrests involving foreigners. On the road of Mant Hong Village, Namhkam Tsp, Shan State, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one Chinese man who illegally entered into Myanmar was arrested with 4,000 stimulant tablets, 33 g of heroin and one motorcycle. In Mahuyar Street, Sandakue (1) Ward, Tamu Tsp, Sagaing Region, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one Indian man who illegally entered into Myanmar was arrested with 10 stimulant tablets, 12 Buprenorphine Tablets, 10 Alprazolam Tablets and one motorcycle.

There have been 431 cases being opened between 23-12-2018 and 5-1-2019, and 529 men and 72 women have been arrested. Seizures were made of 57,085.09 g of heroin, 6,184.53 g of ICE, 23.33 g of low-quality opium, 538607.12 g of opium, 7,235 g of speciosa powder, 6,500 g of speciosa, 1,577,979 stimulant tablets, 3,280.07 g of marijuana, 57,138 g of opium blocks, 4,769,294 g of caffeine, 431 Ecstasy Tablets, 1.6 g of Ecstasy Powder, 127.45 g of Ketamine, 22 Buprenorphine Tablets, 6400 liters of identified chemical solution, 1,750,000 g of Amoniumchloride, 10 Alprazolam Tablets, one gun, 32.33 g of saltpeter and five bullets.

5. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts:

Auto telephone No.	— 067-590200
Fax Phone No.	—067-590233
Email Address	— antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

9 JANUARY 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Honoring fallen policemen who sacrificed their lives for the Union

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a free, sovereign home to many ethnic nationals. It is our responsibility to guard our Union.

After regaining independence, we were unable to establish a Union trusted and valued by all; till date, we have had more than 70 years of armed conflicts based on suspicion, mistrust, hate, and antagonism. The dreams and aspirations of our country and our people were sacrificed in the long-drawn armed conflicts.

In the past, we experienced dangers which could have led to the disintegration of the Union, and many sacrificed their lives to prevent the country from falling apart.

> The latest terrorist attacks have complicated the situation in the region — where the Union Government is working to build stability and security and carrying out development projects

In recent years, we faced a similar threat with terrorist attacks in Rakhine State, which is a part of our Union. We had to use our collective strength to deal with the situation.

Again, on 4th January, while the country was celebrating its 71st Independence Day, AA insurgents carried out coordinated attacks on four police outposts in Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State. In the ensuing battle, 13 policemen were killed and 9 were injured.

The latest terrorist attacks have complicated the situation in the region — where the Union Government is working to build stability and security and carrying out development projects — and have put the lives and property of the people at risk.

Hence, we honor the policemen who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Our people are safe and secure because of them. They fought and died for us, for our Union.

The police, as well as the armed forces of the country, work to protect and defend the country and prevent the disintegration of the Union, renewing this commitment every day, even at the cost of their lives.

We can honor their sacrifice by resolving to serve our nation and each other. Along with their families, we carry the loss of our brothers in our hearts.

All citizens must strive for unity and integrity of the Union, the perpetuation of sovereignty, and must work towards the emergence of a proud, peaceful, and prosperous nation.



Shwe Thway: A milestone in the history of children's literature in Myanmar

By Maung Hlaing
Chief Editor (Retd.)
Sarpay Beikman



"CHILDREN'S literature is of high value, as it is created to help bring up innocent children in such a way as to become happy and lovely people."

"Children's literature is more difficult to create because there are more limitations such as the quality of the characters, the familiarity of the environment and the reading level."

These remarks were made by ex-President U Htin Kyaw at the opening ceremony of the Children's Literature Festival held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre -2 (MICC-2) on 5 November, 2016. He said so simply because he himself is a writer and he was born of Sayagyi Min Thu Wun who pioneered the children's literature.

Although we cannot definitely say the dawn of children's literature of Myanmar, six periods could roughly be defined--from Myanmar prehistoric time to Late Konboung period; Colony period (1886-1948); Parliament Democracy period (1948-1962); Lanzin Party, or Socialist Revolution period (1962-1988); State Law and Order Restoration Council/State Peace and Development Council period (1988-2010); and Transformation period towards democracy (2011- to date).

Scholars say that in the prehistoric time, children's literature was descended from story-telling. It is because children love listening to story-telling. When we were very very small, before we had even learned to read, we loved to listen to the tales or stories Grandpa or Grandma told us. Hundreds of times we were transported to the Benares and King Bramahdat who is well acquainted with children. And we the children were familiar with the story of "Mae Htwe Lay and the Serpent", a Myanmar traditional folk-tale. We had pity on Mae Htwe Lay who was simple and honest. At the same time, we had an antipathy to her cruel elders.

Not only in Myanmar but also in nations of the world, adults have told stories to their children since the prehistoric times. Fairy tales, folk-tales, myths, epics, ballads and fables have existed since then. Early people handed down their folk literature orally from generation to generation. In the Innwa (Ava) Dynasty, literature for children came out thanks to the emergence of (rhyming) homily (ဆုံးမစာ). Most of the homilies were written by monk writers who wanted children to become good citizens.

After the British annexation of Myanmar in 1886, the entire Myanmar became its colony and we saw the British Colony period. In Mawlamyine (Moulmein) which was accustomed to the British Administration, missionary schools were thriving. A Book for children--Burmese Pictorial Reader" compiled by Maung Na Kaw was printed at A.B.M printing press in 1865. It was said to be a first and foremost reader for children in Myanmar.

Similarly, Thudamasari Precedents, or Judgements printed and published in Sittway (Rakhine State) in 1866 could also be considered to be a book for children. It contained folk-tales for children. Moreover, "Hitaw Padetha" printed and published in Yangon in 1870 was put on the list of children's literature. Later, it was in the 1870's that the translated works for children began to flourish. In 1873, the world-famous "Aesop's Fables" were translated by W.Shwe Too Sandy. Although the themes were based on alien origins they could attract both young readers and adults.

Regarding the history of children's literature in Myanmar, we cannot ignore the significant role played by "The World of Books" (လူ့လောကစာစောင်) that emerged in 1920's. It served as a bridge between the olden day's sty les and the modern ones.

"The World of Books" carried traditional folktales and translated works for children. Most of the works educated the children to know how to obey the elders. It introduced translation competitions to children's literature which were known as "Prize Translation". Even U Thant (Former Secretaty-General of UNO) translated a poem of French origin "The Crow and the Fox" into Myanmar under the pen-name of "Thilawa". Likweise, Thakin Ba Thaung paved the way for children's literature based on nationalism and patriotism through the children's corner of the World of Books.

The movements of literature for children gradually gained momentum when the pioneers such as Maung Wun, Sun Thawdar, Anyatra, Wathawa, Mya Wut Yee, Shwe ka-nyit, Mingalar, Welu Thumana took part in the movemets.

According to the records, "The Burma Boy" (မြန်မာပြည်သားစာစောင်) which came out in 1924 could be called the first and foremost magazine for children and became an important milestone in the movement of children's literature in Myanmar. The publisher was an English named Mr. Kinch (of the Scouts) who established the Burma Art Club in Rangoon High School in 1918 taught painting to Myanmar students. Successful artists U Ba Nyan, U Ba Zaw and famous cartoonist U Hein Soon were his students. "The Burma Boy" contained The Editor's Notes, stories, materials on general knowledge including agriculture and livestock breeding, physical exercises and sports and etc. with attractive illustrations. However, the magazine was Brought to an end when Mr. Kinch was transferred to the Shan State in 1927.

It was in 1935 when a periodical called "Tet Khit" came out to encourage Myanmar citizens to learn current international affairs. The magazine enabled the young readers to have political outlook. Especially, it inspired Myanmar children to have nationalistic and religious fervour.

In the Parliament Democracy period, Dr.Htin Aung worte the Book "Selection From Burmese Folk Tales" which was published by the Oxford University Press in 1948. The book was written in English to make the world know the essence of Myanmar traditional folk-tales.

In 1955, "The Children's Journal" (ခလေးဂျာနယ်) conducted by Saya Zawana came out. The journal was contributed by Sayagyi Min Thu Wun, Zawana, Ko Gyi Nanda-meik, Tet Toe, Htun Nay Nwe, Khin Myo Chit, Nu Yin, Ngwe Tar Yi and so on. It carried tales and translated works of international myths and tales.

During the period of Burma Socialist Programme Party, periodicals for children were produced and carried new styles of writing. In 1964, "The Shay Saung Lu-nge Journal" (ခရွေ့ဆောင်လူငယ်ဂျာနယ်) and "The Doe Kyaung-thar Sar-saung" (ဒို့ကျောင်းသားစာစောင်) were produced by Myawady Press, under the Ministry of Information came out for children. "Shwe Thway" journal was born of Sarpay Beikman, which was under the Printing and Publishing Corporation (now Printing and Publishing Department), Ministry of Information on 4-1-1969. "Shwe Thway" came out in accordance with the objectives of "Getting to know one's own and others" cultures; Promoting concern for the disadvantaged and the handicapped; and Making children enjoy themselves in reading." The journal has carried folk tales, modern short stories, short articles for general knowledge, children's chuckles and poems with attractive colourful illustrations since the time when it was conceived. Most of the works are based on educational themes and they were illustrated by well-known artists and cartoonists such as U Ba Kyi, U Than Kywe, U Sein (Maung Sein), U Pe Thein, U Kyaw San (Ka-Hsa) U Tin Aye, U Than Nwe and young artists and cartoonists, who are now playing a leading role in the publishing world today.

When I joined the Sarpay Beikman in 1980, I became an editor of Shwe Thway which was ten years old and the journal was transformed into a bilingual one. The leading translators were Sayagyi U Win Pe (Mya Zin), U Ko Ko (Motley Ko-Ko), U Aung Chan Tha (C.T.Aung), Mr. Paul Aung Khin (P. Aung Khin) and U Paw Htin (Jimmy Paw Htin). Later, Guardian U Kyaw Min (Min Kyaw Min) and U Khin Maung Aye (KMA) became translators for Shwe Thway. Now, the author of this article and U Khin Maung Lay (KML) who worked as Executive Editor of Shwe Thway for a long time are engaged as translators.

Except Saya Mya Zin, all the leading translators and artists and cartoonists have done their best and now they have earned their rest in peace. Those (Maung Hsu Shin, Daw Ohn Kyi, U San Lwin, Gayet Ni and etc) who gave birth to Shwe Thway Journal are no longer in Sarpay Beikman. However they have left the banner that will be relayed to new generations.

Times have collapsed. Things are changing at an alarming rate. Shwe Thway may changed its formats and contents in line with the times and systems to attract the young readers. However, the essence of educating the young readers and inspiring them to have an access to all kinds of books will never never be changed. Shwe Thway will continue to instil a hobby or habit of reading into children.

From 16 to 20 September in 1965, a symposium on children's literature was held in the hall of Sarpay Beikman. After 1965, there were another two paper reading sessions--one was on "Literature for children" (in 1973) and another one was on "Folk Tales" (in 1987). Although we should celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Literature for Children in 2015, we failed to do so.

In our country today, the government itself is dedicated to achieving headway in children's literature. Publishing of books and journals and other periodicals designed and illustrated for children is gaining momentum. Children's Literature Festivals and Book Fairs jointly organized by the Ministry of Information and regional governments concerned, are successfully held in cities of states and regions all over the nation.

A child anywhere is a child and is always innocent. They are the potential torch bearers who will shoulder our duties we are carrying out today. What we should do our best is to prepare them for a happy and bright future by providing revelatory literature. They need literature that will pave the way for international peace, mutual understanding and friendship among children who will make the world anew.

We should not ignore the fact that failure to nurture the development of children's literature could ruin not only the future of the children but also that of the country.

In commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Shwe Thway Journal that fell on 5 January, 2019!

Ref ;
1.The Global New Light of Myanmar, 6-11-2016
2.The Global New Light of Myanmar, 28-1-2017
3.ကလေးလူငယ်စာပေ၊ ဒုတိယတွဲ၊ စာပေဗိမာန်၊ ၁၉၇၃

71st Kachin State Day celebration in Myitkyina to be broadcast live

A ceremony to celebrated the 71st Anniversary of the Kachin State Day will be held in the Manaw grounds, Sitarpu Ward, Myitkyina in Kachin State at 9:00 am on 10 January 2019. The ceremony will be broadcast live by the Myanma Radio and Television, National Race Channel and Myanma Radio and Television's Facebook starting from 8:45 am on the same day.—MNA

(Translated by JT)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on Tuesday 8 January 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24)hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region. Rain or thundershowers has been scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing Region and Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Northern Shan State. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Sagaing and Magway regions, Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin and Kayin states, (5°C) above January average temperatures in Mandalay and Bago regions, Rakhine and Mon states, (7°C) above January average temperatures in Eastern Shan and Kayah states, (9°C) above January average temperature in Southern Shan State and about January average temperatures in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (4°C) in Haka and (6°C) each in Putao and Mongmit. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Cocogyun (6.85)inches, Labutta (3.74) inches, Kyaukme and Nawnghkio (3.31)inches each, Pyapon (3.23) inches, Kungyangon (3.07)inches, Hainggyikyun (3.03)inches, Belin (2.40)inches, PyinOoLwin and Chauk (2.36)inches, Ngazun (2.21)inches, Lashio (2.17)inches, North Dagon (2.13)inches and Mogok (2.09)inches.

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the Low Pressure Area over the Deltaic Areas and Southern Rakhine Coast(Myanmar) still persists. Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and Westcentral Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Low Pressure Are

8 January 2019, 14:00 MST

According to the observations at (13:30)hrs MST today, the Low Pressure Area over Eastcentral Bay and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal now lies over the Deltaic Areas and Southern Rakhine Coast (Myanmar) still persists.

General caution

Due to the Low Pressure Area, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states, isolated to scattered in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Kachin and Chin states and with regionally heavy falls in Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Shan State and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, Kayah and Rakhine states within next (36) hours commencing today afternoon. Occasional Squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)mph. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Myanmar tea to feature for first time at US food expo

TEA from Myanmar will be displayed, for the first time, at the largest food expo in the US which will take place in New York City in June, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP).

The America Food Expo will be held from 23 to 25 June. Myanmar has been allotted six booths at the expo, and also plans to become a member of the Specialty Food Association (SFA).

"The expo is held in January and June. We were interested in taking part at the expo and asked the embassy to get in touch with the expo's organizers, who allotted us six booths, and asked us to register. We also negotiated with the tea association and registered to display tea at the expo," said U Kyaw Thu, the secretary of the MFVP.

In October, officials from the MFVP and the Myanmar Avocado Producers and Exporters Association visited California to study avocado planting at the invitation ofthe California Avocado Association. During the visit, they also visited the Myanmar embassy in Washington, where they were invited to showcase their products at the America Food Expo.

Myanmar exported 17 tons of tea to the California and the US market in September 2018. Food entrepreneurs from around the world are expected to attend the America Food Expo. The expo will allow Myanmar producers to extend their international market.

"Our association may get a chance to showcase our products in three booths. The remaining three booths will display other crops and traditional foods, which have a potential for export to the United States. This will be our first show in the US. Myanmar tea has been recognized in the US, especially Myanmar wet tea leaves (Latphat So). Dry tea has a good market in Germany. But I don't think, we will get a demand for tea from the foreign market right away," said U Myo Win Aung, the deputy chairman of the Myanmar Tea Association.

"The America Food Expo is usually held twice a year. To be eligible for exports,we have to meet their criteria. We don't expect an immediate demand for wet tea leaves from the US because there are many things involved, including raising awareness about the advantages of Myanmar wet tea leaves. We will work to get the certification and study the innovation in the US market," he said.

"Moreover, wet tea or dry tea producers from Myanmar have to get the ISO certificate or other certificates required to sell their products in the international market," he said.

"Some companies, which have received EU's organic certificate, are exporting Myanmar dry tea to Germany and Myanmar wet tea to the US. Now, they are making arrangements to penetrate the Chinese market," he added.— Aye Yamone Oo (*Translated by Hay Mar*)

Sea turtle released into Sittoung River

A SEA turtle, which was carried by the tide and stranded east of the Shwe Ta Sauk bank in Kawa Township of Bago District was released into the Sittoung River by the Bago Region's Fisheries Department on the evening of 7 January.

The sea turtle's shell measures 29 inches in length and 27 inches in width. The turtle was found by two fishermen — U Myint Soe and U Pho Htaung — from Shwe Ta Sauk Village. They took it to the Ngwar Kyaung Thar pagoda, and informed the Fisheries Department.

Thereafter, the sea turtle was released into the Sittoung River by the Deputy Director of the Bago Region's Fisheries Department along with the head of the Kawa Township Fisheries Department, village administrators, and villagers.— Tin Soe (Bago)

(*Translated by Hay Mar*)



Sea turtle released back into the Sittoung River. **PHOTO: TIN SOE (BAGO)**

Thaphanseik Dam to supply water for summer paddy, other crops

THE authorities plan to supply water from the Thaphanseik Dam to irrigate over 3500,000 acres of summer paddy and over 80,000 acres of other crops in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. They will begin releasing water from the dam from 7 February, according to the Shwebo District Assistant Director's Office of the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

The dam will supply water to plant 273,470 acres of summer paddy and 84,230 acres of other crops through four main drains. In the current fiscal year, authorities plan to plant 250,470 acres of summer paddy and 78,830 acre of other crops in Shwebo District, 23,000 acres of summer paddy and 200 acres of other crops in Kanbalu District, and 5,200 acres of summer paddy in Monywa District.

"Currently, we have sufficient water in the Thaphanseik Dam to be utilized for irrigation purposes," said U Saw Thet Khine Win, the Deputy Director of the Sagaing Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.—Yaung Ni Tin Win

(Translated by Hay Mar)



The photo of the Thaphanseik Dam. Cultivation of paddy, wheat, pulses & beans and sesame can be undertaken successfully with irrigated water. **PHOTO: YAUNG NI TIN WIN**

Ministry of Ethnic Affairs Ayayawady Region Director's Office building opens in Pathein

OPENING ceremony of Ayeyawady Region director office building for Ministry of Ethnic Affairs Department of Ethnical Literature and Culture and Department of Protecting Ethnic Rights was held at Ayeyawady Region, Pathein, No. 13 Ward, Mahazedi Street yesterday morning. The office building was opened by Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, minister for Kayin ethnic affairs Ga Moe Myat Myat Thu and minister for Rakhine ethnic affairs U Tin Saw cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Ceremony attendees then observed the documentary photos of ethnic nationals displayed in the office.

Next, the second part of the office building ceremony was held where Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin said ethnic national brothers and sisters are to remove hatred and prejudices and establish a true and long lasting peace. In the President's New Year remark the people were urged to cooperate more in the government's works such as establishing peace in the union, a democratic federal union and development processes. As such ethnic national brothers and sisters are to participate in this more enthusiastically. Much effort is to be made toward gross national product growth while cooperating toward eradication of psychotropic pills that are endangering and destroying the futures of ethnic national youths, said the Union Minister.

Afterwards, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung said the Union Government is working hand-in-hand with the entire people and ethnic nationals toward achieving national reconciliation and peace in the union. Ethnic nationals in Ayeyawady Region are to retain their literature, culture, traditions and their national identities on one hand while strive toward socio-economic development of ethnic nationals in the region, success of national reconciliation and union peace processes and participate in friendship and collective strength toward establishment of a better future union.



Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin looks around documentary photos of ethnic people displayed at the opening ceremony of the new building in Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: AYEYAWADY REGION IPRD**

Later Ministry of Ethnic Affairs Department of Protecting Ethnic Rights Director General Dr. L Tu Meang Gaung explained about the duties and responsibilities of the ministry and the construction of the new building and then presented cash presents to Kayin and Rakhine cultural troupes and Pathein University ethnic national cultural troupe that performed at the opening ceremony.

The new office building is a two-story 80x60x24 ft. reinforced concrete building constructed by Building Special Group 15, Public Works Department, Ministry of Construction in fiscal year 2017-2018 with union fund K 341.96 million. It is the fourth such building built in states and regions it is learnt. —Region IPRD ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Cash assistance for families of police killed in action in Buthidaung

THE AA insurgent group had launched massive coordinated attacks on four border police outposts in Buthidaung Township of Rakhine State on 4 January , 2019. In this incident, police personnel were injured and lost their lives.

Provisions of cash to family members of police personnel were made and officials from the Police Force went to the office of No. 3 Border Guard Police Force, and they meet with family members of police personnel killed in the attack and to console their bereavements.

Police Major Zaw Lin Aung, from No. 5 Border Guard Police Force, went to meet with family members of Constable Thant Zin Min and provided cash assistance at the amount of 1 million on 5 January .

Police Lt-Col Aung Kyaw Zaw, from No. 3 Border Guard Police Force, went to meet with family members of Constable Tun Hla and provided cash assistance at the amount of 1 million on January 6.



Police officer delivers the cash by hand to family members of Constable Than Shwe Oo on 6 January. **PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE**

Police Major Ye Win from No. 8 Border Guard Police Force, went to meet with family members of Constable Than Shwe Oo and provided cash assistance at the amount of 1 million on January 6.

Police Major Aung Myat Oo from No. 1 Border Guard Police Force, went to meet with family members of Constable Myo Myint and provided cash assistance at the amount of million on January 7, according to the Myanmar Police Force.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Woman injured in IED explosion in Buthidaung

AN improvised explosive device-IED exploded yesterday near a village in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State and one woman injured.

The device exploded when a motorcycle the victim was onboard passed on it. May May Than Nu of Taungbabzar Village was injured on her left calf.

She is receiving treatment at the Tatmadaw Hospital in Buthidaung. —MNA (*Translated by JT*)

Untimely rain leaves onion fields underwater in Seikphyu

UNTIMELY rainfall brought by depression which made landfall in Myanmar yesterday flooded onion plantations in Seinphyu Township.

Local onion farmers are trying to make the flood water drain out of the fields before the winter-crop plantation are destroyed.

The onion fields are flooded due to the rainfall happened on 7 and 8 January.

"Inputs for onion plantation and seedlings are expensive. It costs around K500,000 for planting onion in one acre," said U Than Aye, a local farmer.

The farmers faced the same fate in early January last year. The four-day torrential rain in January last year destroyed onion plantation last year in the township.

Some re-grew the plants but some turned to another winter crops due to scarcity of seedlings, said U Than Aye.—Soe Lin Naing(IPRD) ■

(Translated by JT)



Onion fields submerged by the recent rain. **PHOTO: SOE LIN NAING (IPRD)**

N Korea's Kim visits China ahead of expected Trump summit

BEIJING (China) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrived in Beijing on Tuesday on an unannounced visit for talks with President Xi Jinping, as preparations ramp up for an expected second summit with Donald Trump.

China is the isolated, nuclear-armed North's key diplomatic ally and main source of trade and aid, and the visit is likely to heighten speculation about the potential meeting with the US president, as Kim could coordinate his strategy with Xi.

A motorcade was seen leaving a Beijing train station, with police blocking a street with metal gates hours after Kim's train crossed the border into northern China, according to AFP journalists.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said the distinctive dark green train with a yellow stripe had entered the station at 10:55 am (0255 GMT).

The North Korean leader, accompanied by his wife Ri Sol Ju and several senior officials, set off from Pyongyang on his private train on Monday, the official Korean Central News Agency reported. The trip is at Xi's invitation and set to run until Thursday, according to KCNA and China's official Xinhua news agency.

The visit comes a week after Kim warned in a New Year's speech that Pyongyang may change its approach to nuclear talks if Washington persists with sanctions.

"Both Xi and Kim see value in coordinating their positions in advance of Trump-Kim summits. That appears to be a pattern," Bonnie Glaser, a senior adviser at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, told AFP.



This picture taken on 7 January, 2019 and released by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 8 January , 2019 shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (r) and his wife Ri Sol Ju leaving Pyongyang Station to visit China. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Kim also seeks Beijing's help in getting international sanctions eased."

While China and Russia have said the United Nations should consider relaxing sanctions on North Korea, Trump insisted on Sunday that they would remain "in full force and effect" until the US sees "very positive" results in the nuclear issue.

Kim's trip also coincides with the second day of talks between US and Chinese officials in Beijing aimed at resolving their trade war — China has in the past rejected the notion that it was using the North Korean issue as a bargaining chip in the negotiations.

"Xi also gains from a summit with Kim — and the timing could not be any better," said Harry Kazianis, director of defence studies at the Centre for the National Interest, a US think tank.

"With Chinese and US officials meeting to discuss how to end the growing trade war between the two superpowers, it shows Beijing clearly has a North Korea card to play if it sees fit."

Kim — whose birthday is reportedly on Tuesday — visited China three times last year for talks with Xi.

Until his first trip in March, Kim had not met Xi in the six years after inheriting power from his father, as relations between the neighbours, once described as close as "lips and teeth", deteriorated over the North's nuclear tests and China's backing of sanctions.

But a whirlwind of diplomacy enveloped the Korean peninsula last year, with Kim also meeting the South's President Moon Jae-in three times, and culminating in his high-profile Singapore summit with Trump in June.

Trump summit

At the Singapore summit, Kim and Trump signed a vaguely worded pledge about the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, but progress has since stalled amid disagreements over what that means, with meetings and visits cancelled at short notice. Negotiations were under way on the location of their next meeting, Trump said on Sunday, while remaining evasive on its timing.

The US president said last week he had received a "great letter" from the North Korean leader but declined to reveal its contents.

Washington is demanding Pyongyang give up its nuclear arsenal before any relief from economic sanctions is granted, while the North is insisting on immediate concessions from the US. Culminating in late 2017, Pyongyang carried out six nuclear tests and launched rockets capable of reaching the entire US mainland, but has now carried out no such tests for more than a year.

Train ride

Kim's latest trip to China began under the usual veil of secrecy, emerging only after South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that a special North Korean train had been seen crossing the border late Monday.

In the Chinese border city of Dandong, dozens of security vehicles and officials blocked the roads around the train station on Monday before the train passed through, Yonhap reported, before reopening them afterwards.

Japan's Kyodo news agency added that hotel guests in Dandong had not been allowed to enter rooms facing the river that forms the border on Monday afternoon, in what it cited sources describing as "an apparent move to prevent the train from being seen". Seoul "expects that high-level exchanges between the North and China... will be able to contribute to the complete denuclearisation and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean peninsula", South Korea's foreign ministry said in a statement. —AFP ■

Saudi girl granted temporary stay in Thailand before taking refuge in third country

BANGKOK — An 18-year-old Saudi girl has been allowed to be temporarily staying in Thailand for a period of time before she leaves for a third country, according to a police general.

In a press conference on Tuesday, Immigration Bureau Commissioner Pol Lt Gen Surachate Hakparn confirmed that Rahaf Mohammed al-Qunun can legally stay in Thailand for a period of time during which the young woman is seeking refuge in a third country with the help of the Bangkok branch of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The period of time for al-Qunun to stay in Thailand is yet to be specified in the next five days, Pol Lt Gen Surachate said.

The Immigration Bureau commissioner denied that al-Qunun has been faced with illegal entry or overstaying charges.

He assured that the Saudi girl will be given protection and safety by authorities during her stay in this country. She had fled her Middle Eastern country where she was feared to have been otherwise compelled into getting married.—Xinhua ■

One dead in oil tanker blaze off Hong Kong

HONG KONG (China) — At least one person has died after an oil tanker caught fire off Hong Kong on Tuesday, police said, sending a huge cloud of dark smoke billowing into the air.

Twenty-one people have been rescued after those on the vessel either fell or jumped into the sea, according to a police spokesperson, but it is not yet clear if more people are still missing.

A number of the victims had suffered burns.

In a picture posted by the Hong Kong Police, the tanker was seen listing sharply with large plumes of black smoke coming from its middle and flames still burning on the deck.

Officers said they received a report of an oil tanker exploding and catching fire in waters south of the outlying Lamma Island.

"I heard several banging and rumbling sounds, like someone with big hands knocking my glass door," a resident of Lamma Island's Mo Tat New Village who gave his name as Shu told AFP.

He added that a smaller banging sound followed about 10 seconds later.

Photos on local news site Apple Daily showed an orange blaze on the ship which was also belching out heavy smoke.

The name on the front of the tanker was Aulac Fortune, which the Hong Kong marine department tracker website showed as arriving at the South Lamma anchorage at 2.58 am on Tuesday local time.

The MarineTraffic.com website listed the tanker as registered in Vietnam and leaving the southern Chinese industrial city of Dongguan on Monday.

Authorities have dispatched marine police vessels, fireboats and a helicopter in an ongoing rescue operation, the South China Morning Post reported.—AFP ■

Volcano erupts on remote Papua New Guinea island

SYDNEY (Australia) — One of Papua New Guinea's most active volcanoes has begun to erupt, authorities said on Tuesday, pummelling villages on a remote island with volcanic rock.

Manam island is a volcanic cone that towers out of the sea north of the Papua New Guinea mainland and has a history of eruptions, with major activity in November 2004 forcing the evacuation of some 9,000 people.

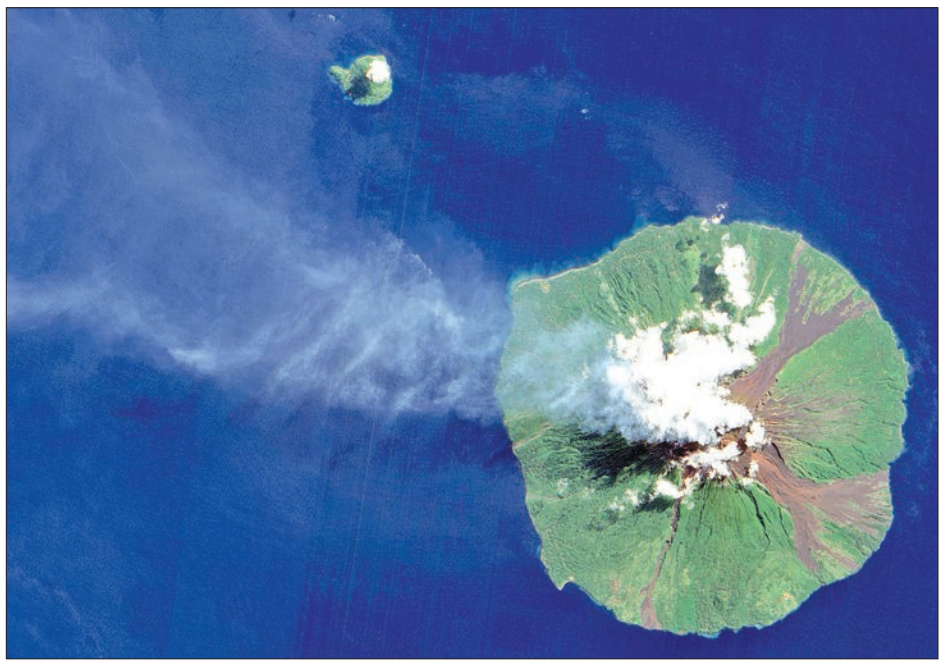
The volcano has erupted a number of times since then and spewed lava and ash last month.

A series of tremors around Manam triggered a warning system on Monday and the volcano began erupting shortly after, the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory said.

The eruption continued into early Tuesday, Ima Itikarai of the observatory told AFP. An observatory report shared with local news website Loop PNG said the latest eruption came from the main crater, with lava channelled into a nearby valley and "intermittent bursts" of volcanic rock falling on villages.

Papua New Guinea has many volcanoes, particularly on its offshore islands, as the country lies at the junction of two tectonic plates.

Some islanders who were evacuated from Manam 15 years ago and resettled elsewhere on Papua New Guinea recently complained they were still struggling with their new lives, *The National newspaper* reported.—AFP ■



Handout photo released by the NASA shows a view captured on 28 June, 2009 by Advanced Land Imager (ALI) onboard NASA's Earth Observing-1 (EO-1) satellite of bright white clouds hovering over the Manam Volcano, just off the coast of mainland Papua New Guinea. **PHOTO: AFP**

Iguanas reintroduced to Santiago Island in Galapagos



A group of 1,436 iguanas of the subspecies Conolophus subcristatus, from Seymour Norte island, are introduced to Santiago island as part of a conservation program in the Galapagos Islands, on 7 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

QUITO (Ecuador) — A group of more than 1,400 iguanas have been reintroduced to an Ecuadoran island in the Galapagos archipelago around two centuries after they disappeared from there, authorities said on Monday.

The Galapagos land iguanas from North Seymour Island were freed onto Santiago Island as part of an ecological restoration programme, the National Galapagos Park authority said in a statement.

The last recorded sighting of iguanas in Santiago Island had been made by British naturalist Charles Darwin in 1835.

"Almost two centuries later, this ecosystem will once again count on this species through the restoration initiative," said the park authority.

Its director, Jorge Carrion, said the iguanas became extinct due to the introduction of predators such as the feral pig, which was eradicated in 2001.

The programme is also aimed at protecting the population of iguanas on North Seymour, said to number around 5,000, where food is limited.

"The land iguana is a herbivore that helps ecosystems by dispersing seeds and maintaining open spaces devoid of vegetation," said Danny Rueda, the park authority's ecosystems director. The Galapagos archipelago, some 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) from the Ecuador coast, contains unique wildlife and vegetation, and is a Unesco World Heritage site. But it has one of the most fragile ecosystems in the world.—AFP ■

Tree ring research shows how climate change expands deserts

LOS ANGELES — New research at the University of Arizona (UA) on tree rings has found that climate change caused expansion of deserts.

UA researchers studied tree rings going back 800 years and found climate change expanded the planet's most extreme deserts, including the Sonoran, which extends from the Baja Peninsula into Southern California and much of southern Arizona.

The team combined tree-ring data from five mid-latitude regions in the Northern Hemisphere.

"Wide tree rings represent wet years and narrower rings indicate dry years. The research shows from 1203 to 2003, the northern part of the tropics shifted up to 4 degrees," said Valerie Trouet, a dendrochronologist and associate professor at the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research at the University of Arizona.

"We can determine how the edge of the tropics has moved over the last 800 years," Trouet said in a recent UA news article about the study.

Trouet's team found that the expansion of the tropics northward from 1568 to 1634 coincided with severe droughts, the collapse of Turkey's Ottoman empire and the end of China's Ming Dynasty. — Xinhua ■

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO. (901W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO. (901W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 09-01-2019 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 ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (007 N/S)

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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 LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Viet Nam's 'incense village' blazes pink ahead of lunar new year

HANOI (Viet Nam) — In Viet Nam's "incense village", dozens are hard at work dying, drying and whittling down bamboo bark to make the fragrant sticks ahead of the busy lunar new year holiday.

It is the most frantic time of year for workers in the cottage industry in Quang Phu Cau village on the outskirts of Hanoi, where families have been making incense for more than a century — a great source of pride for many.

"It is a traditional and spiritual job making these sticks," Dang Thi Hoa told AFP, sitting amid bundles of bright pink incense sticks drying under the afternoon sun.

Her village is among several dotted across Viet Nam making the sticks, the scent of each batch tailored to the tastes of regions they will be sold in.

Sales tick up every year ahead of and during the Tet lunar new year in February, when throngs of people crowd into temples to light incense during worship, or burn the sticks on the ancestral altar at home.

Hoa's family started making the sticks more than 100 years ago and her mother still pitches in along with her teenage daughter who helps out after school.

Selling her sticks to central Viet Nam, Hoa can earn up to $430 a month leading up to Tet, a tidy sum in the country where the average monthly income is $195.

Most households in the alleys of Quang Phu Cau are involved in the ancient trade.

Some hack bamboo planks down to be fed into a whittling machine; others dip the thin strips into buckets of pink dye, leaving hundreds of brightly coloured bushels fanned out like bouquets on the streets to air out.

After, women donning cloth face masks coat the dried sticks with aromatic incense paste before redrying them and shipping them off for packaging. — AFP ■



Realme Smart-phone brand unveiled the Realme C1 during the launch of the Realme 2 Pro at Melia Hotel in Yangon on 27 December. The handset will be available in two colour options, including Navy Blue and Mirror Black. The Realme C1 is priced at Ks 159,9000. **PHOTO: GNLM**

Sam Elliott honored at Hollywood ceremony as Lady Gaga lends support

LOS ANGELES (United States) — Veteran actor Sam Elliott imprinted his hands and feet in cement on Hollywood Boulevard on Monday, as "A Star is Born" co-stars Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper shook off Golden Globes disappointment to join in honoring the 74-year-old's long career.

Known for his lanky physique, thick mustache and languid drawl, Elliott reflected on his life's work and the joy of acting, telling reporters: "The people you work with, the community... and feeling like you're doing something that makes a difference to somebody" made it all worthwhile.

"A Star is Born" may have struck out at the Golden Globes the night before, picking up just one trophy for best song, but Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper were all smiles as they came to show their support for Elliott, who plays Cooper's elder brother in the film.

Dressed in a striking sky-blue trench coat, Gaga, 32, shared an Instagram story as she received a kiss on her forehead from Elliott. "So excited to be here for Sam Elliott's hand & footprint ceremony," she wrote, adding a series of heart emojis.

The trio later shared a heart-warming embrace, as Cooper hailed the "iconic mark" Elliott had on films. Elliott got his start with minor roles in late 60s Westerns such as "The Way West" (1967) and "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," but it wasn't until the 1980s that his career took off in a big way in the "Mask" and "Road House."

He received the first of his two Golden Globe nomination for TV film "Conagher," where he played the titular role and starred alongside his wife Katharine Ross. Elliott also has two primetime Emmy nominations. His other notable works include "Gettysburg" and "The Big Lebowski," and he is a regular on current Netflix series "The Ranch." While he wasn't nominated at the Golden Globes, industry magazine Variety reported the actor seems poised to land his first Oscar nomination for what it called his "tender performance" in "A Star is Born."—AFP ■



Actor Sam Ellliott (2-R) poses with Bradley Cooper (2-L), Lady Gaga (C) and others during Sam Eliott's Hand and Footprints ceremony in Hollywood, California on 7 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Aquaman' makes waves to stay atop N American box office

LOS ANGELES, (United States) — "Aquaman" left other movies in its wake in North American box offices this weekend, taking in $31 million, final figures by industry watcher Exhibitor Relations said on Monday.

The DC super-hero film, in its third week out, has now taken in a global total of $941 million. That makes it the biggest Warner Bros comic-book film since "The Dark Knight Rises" earned more than $1 billion in 2012, according to Variety's entertainment news website.

Jason Momoa stars as the heavily tattooed half human/half-Atlantean hero who struggles against evil forces to gain control of the powerful Trident of Atlan. James Wan, known for horror films like "Saw," directed.

In second place was new Sony thriller "Escape Room," with $18.2 million for the three-day weekend — a strong start for a film that cost just $9 million to produce.

Third place went to Disney's family-friendly musical "Mary Poppins Returns," at $15.9 million. The sequel to the beloved 1964 film stars Emily Blunt in the title role and Lin-Manuel Miranda as a limber and lovable lamplighter. In fourth was "Bumblebee," from Paramount, at $13.2 million. The prequel to the "Transformers" movies stars Hailee Steinfeld and John Cena.

Sony's "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" dropped to the fifth spot, with a take of $13.1 million for its fourth week in theaters.

The film won a best animated picture award at the Golden Globes on Sunday, with director Peter Ramsay hailing the message of inclusivity behind the film.

"We were trying to make a movie that spoke to the idea that anyone could be behind the mask," he said during his acceptance speech.

Rounding out the weekend's top 10 were:

"The Mule" ($9.1 million)

"Vice" ($5.7 million)

"Second Act" ($4.8 million)

"Ralph Breaks the Internet" ($4.7 million)

"Holmes & Watson" ($3.3 million)—AFP ■

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Breadmaking robot startup eyes fresh connections

LAS VEGAS (United States) — The robot breadmaker came to Las Vegas this week, aiming to bring some freshness to a sector that may be ready for disruption.

Wilkinson Baking Company unveiled its BreadBot at the Consumer Electronics Show, a machine that mixes and bakes up to 235 loaves a day.

Chief executive Randall Wilkinson said the device can lower costs and produce fresher breads than are available in most American supermarkets.

"Consumers want the freshest thing possible, but when they go into the store they don't know when that bread was baked," said Wilkinson, a member of the family-owned firm in Walla Walla, Washington.

Wilkinson said the machine, which takes up as much room as a mid-sized car, has more automation technology than bread factories, and can produce at a far lower cost. He noted that using in-store robotic machines could eliminate the need for truck delivery, which accounts for as much as 45 percent of the cost of most bread. This means profits could get a rise. The company is in talks with major supermarket chains and also plans to deliver the robots to the US military for making buns on carrier fleets, Wilkinson said.

The bread robot — which was at a startup showcase on Sunday and will be on the show floor from Tuesday — joins a line of devices aimed at disrupting the food industry, including pizza-making robots and robotic baristas.

The current generation of BreadBot is designed for standard kinds of loaves but Wilkinson said the robots can be adapted for customized breads, even French baguettes. "At some point you will be able to order a special loaf on your phone — you can add sunflower seeds, use less salt or whatever — and pick it up in an hour," he said. — AFP ■

Fossil of prehistoric deer found in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, (Argentina) —The well-preserved fossil of a prehistoric deer has been discovered just to the north of Buenos Aires, the La Matanza University revealed on Monday.

The fossil — which hasn't yet been given a definitive age — included almost 70 per cent of the animal, including its spine, extremities and teeth.

The discovery came from a site where 24 fossils of mammals and reptiles have been found in the last 17 years.

"It's amazing to see how its spine and neck remained in the 'life position'," said Jose Luis Aguilar, director of the Paleontological Museum of San Pedro, in the north of Buenos Aires province.

As well as an almost complete set of teeth and its spine, the skeleton also included more than 20 ribs, the pelvic bone, a rear leg and a part of a femur.

This species of deer, from the Morenelaphus genus of which only fragmentary remains had been found until now, could reach up to 200 kilograms (440 pounds).



Handout picture taken on 26 October, 2018 and released by the Museo Paleontologico "Fray Manuel de Torres" on 7 January, 2019 showing fossil bones of a prehistoric deer specimen found recently at the Campo Sposito palaeontological site in San Pedro, in the north of the Argentine province of Buenos Aires. A very well preserved prehistoric deer fossil specimen was recenlty found in San Pedro, the Argentine university of La Matanza reported on 7 January, 2019. The fossil includes teeth, parts of its extremities and the vertebrate column, practically 70% of the animal. **PHOTO: AFP**

"This little animal has come to give us details about a moment in our prehistory when the environment they lived in was quite different to now," said Aguilar, who made the discovery.

Tests are due to be carried out to determine the fossil's age but the Morenelaphus is from the Pleistocene era that lasted from 2.5 million years ago until around 12,000 years ago.— AFP ■

LG flexes roll-up TV as screens start to bend

LAS VEGAS (United States) — LG on Monday unveiled a roll-up television screen as a trend of bendable displays began taking shape at a consumer electronics extravaganza in Las Vegas.

An ultra-high definition LG Signature television that rolls into and out of a base stand — which also serves as a sophisticated sound bar — was among the stars at the South Korean consumer electronics titan's press event on the eve of the official start of the Consumer Electronics Show.

"What science fiction directors imagined decades ago is now reality," LG senior vice president of marketing David VanderWaal said while introducing the OLED TV R. "It brings freedom of design to a space, without the limitations of a wall."

A demonstration showed that the 65-inch (165 centimetre) screen could disappear completely into the base, extend just part way to display photos, act as a control screen for smart devices, or rise completely for full viewing.

"It looks very cool, and interior designers are going to love it," GlobalData research director Avi Greengart said of the roll-up television.

"This is unique technology; you are going to want this."

Apple on screen

All of LG's new OLED televisions, including the roll-up model, will be infused with Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa virtual assistant software as well at Apple AirPlay software.

"We are really excited to be one of Apple's first TV partners for AirPlay Video," said LG senior director of home entertainment product marketing Tim Alessi.

LG rivals Samsung and Vizio have also announced they are building AirPlay into televisions, in a trend Greengart considered intriguing. "You will be able to push content from your iPhone to the television set, so iTunes users should see a lot better access to their content," the analyst said.

The television alliances also promised to play into Apple's efforts to build up the services and digital content part of its business.

LG did not disclose pricing for the roll-up television. LG also unveiled its first super-high-definition 8K OLED television, joining competitors in offering premium screens that ramp up the richness of imagery. Bendable and foldable screens were expected to be among the technology trends on display at CES, which opens officially on Tuesday.— AFP ■



The Signature OLED TV R, a roll-up television, is presented ahead of the official start of the Consumer Electronics Show. **PHPOTO: AFP**

Dutch astronaut dials 911 from International Space Station

THE HAGUE — A Dutch astronaut accidentally dialed 911, an emergency telephone number in many countries, from the International Space Station, reported local media.

Andre Kuipers, a 60-year-old astronaut with the European Space Agency, said he missed a number when he was trying to make an international call from space.

"First you dial the 9 for an outside line, and then 011 for an international line," he told Dutch public broadcaster Nederlandse Omroep Stichting. "I made a mistake (missing the 0), and the next day I received an email message: Did you call 911?"

Alhough Kuipers hung up immediately when he realized his error, the call triggered an alert at NASA, which checked the room where the call was issued but found no one there.

According to NASA, astronauts in the International Space Station are able to make calls at any time.—Xinhua ■

Nadal says 'no pain' after Sydney tie as Slam looms

SYDNEY (Australia) — Injury-plagued world number two Rafael Nadal insists he is healthy and in no pain after coming through an exhibition game in Sydney, just days after pulling out of the Brisbane International.

The Spaniard teamed up with Canadian Milos Raonic to defeat Australians Nick Kyrgios and John Millman in the FAST4 Showdown on Monday evening — a shortened, quicker format of the game often described as the tennis equivalent of Twenty20 cricket.

Nadal said that he was "feeling better" after withdrawing from Brisbane, when an MRI revealed a slight strain of his left thigh, casting doubts over his fitness for next week's Australian Open.

"I did not feel the pain here," the 17-time Grand Slam champion said. "I think it was a good start for me, a good comeback to the action in front of a fantastic crowd in Sydney.

"I really enjoyed playing here. I'm happy to be back on court and happy that I'm healthy again."

Nadal has not played a main tour event since a knee problem forced him to retire during his US Open semi-final against Juan Martin del Potro in September.

The 32-year-old had surgery on his ankle in November to remove a loose intra-articular body and only resumed training a month ago.

He played the opening round at an exhibition event in Abu Dhabi to start his season, where he lost to South African Kevin Anderson, and had a first round bye in Brisbane before withdrawing ahead of the second round.

Asked by reporters if he considered himself a genuine title contender in Melbourne despite his injury problems, he replied: "Why not?"

"You can't predict that. Of course it would be better if I had the chance to play a full tournament in Abu Dhabi and a full tournament in Brisbane, but the big importance is I am feeling good with the ball," he said

"The only thing is that I didn't play matches since a long time ago."

Nadal will now head to Melbourne, where he was the champion in 2009, to get in as much practice as possible before the opening Grand Slam of the year begins on Monday.—AFP ■



Rafael Nadal of Spain attends a media call with children from different Queensland tennis academies at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane on 5 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

South Korea edge Sven's Philippines 1-0 at Asian Cup

DUBAI (United Arab Emirates) — Prolific goal scorer Hwang Ui-jo snatched a second-half winner as South Korea beat Sven-Goran Eriksson's Philippines 1-0 at the Asian Cup on Monday.

The Koreans, looking to end 59 years of hurt after failing to win the title since 1960, soaked up considerable pressure in their opening Group C fixture before Hwang broke the deadlock after 67 minutes in the United Arab Emirates.

The Japan-based striker swivelled and smashed home from close range in Dubai to settle his side's nerves after Newcastle midfielder Ki Sung-yueng limped off with a suspected hamstring injury.

South Korea, who will be boosted by the arrival of Tottenham star Son Heung-min after their first two games, joined China on three points at the top of their group after Marcello Lippi's side squeezed past Kyrgyzstan 2-1 earlier in the day in Al Ain.

The Koreans, runners-up to hosts Australia four years ago, endured a nervous wait for their breakthrough goal against the Asian Cup first-timers.

They were indebted to goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu, who plunged to his right to deny Javier Patino in the 54th minute.

But Hwang, whose tournament-high nine goals helped South Korea win last year's Asian Games title, came to the rescue with a piece of magic in the box and was unlucky not to add further goals as the competition favourites finished strongly.—AFP ■



Burton Albion's English manager Nigel Clough. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cup specialist Clough believes Burton need a miracle to upset Man City

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Burton Albion will need a "miracle" to overcome the might of Premier League champions Manchester City over two legs in the League Cup semi-final according to manager Nigel Clough, but he is no stranger to producing Cup upsets.

Son of legendary manager Brian Clough, who led Nottingham Forrest to win two European Cups, Clough was in his first spell in charge when Burton, then in English football's fifth tier, held a Manchester United boasting Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney 0-0 in the FA Cup in 2006.

Burton have since progressed to the third tier in League One, but Clough believes stopping Pep Guardiola's City, particularly when they travel to the Etihad on Wednesday, is an even tougher task.

"I think this one over two legs," said Clough, when asked to compare which was the tougher challenge.

"When Rooney and Ronaldo came on after 59 minutes here for Manchester United, it's a similar sort of prospect with the likes of the quality that Manchester City have.

"But away from home, it's a different thing. When they are on their own patch, as you saw against Liverpool, they're as good and as confident as anything."

Clough also masterminded Sheffield United's run to the last four of both the League and FA Cup when in League One in two seasons at Bramall Lane between 2013 and 2015.

However, in eliminating Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest and Middlesbrough of the Championship and Premier League strugglers Burnley, Burton haven't yet faced anyone of City's calibre.

"We've not gone into any detail with them because that will frighten the life out of them," admitted Clough. "They know. They watch Match of the Day every week. They know exactly how good they are.

"To reach the League Cup semi-final, in some ways the job is done.

"But we still have an outside chance of achieving a miracle, and that's what we'll try for."

Clough won the League Cup twice as a player under his father's tutelage at Forrest before a big money move to Liverpool in 1993 and then joining City in 1995 at a time when Premier League survival rather than dominance was the target at Maine Road.

The modern day Abu-Dhabi backed City are still in the hunt for four competitions as after closing the gap on Liverpool to four points at the top of the Premier League table, they thrashed Rotherham 7-0 on Sunday despite naming a much-changed side.

"We do what we have to do to become a great, great club," warned Guardiola. "The great clubs don't choose competitions, don't choose games, you have to do your job."

The next job for the champions is to end Clough's dream of leading his side out at Wembley as his father did so often with Forrest.—AFP ■