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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Vice President U Myint Swe: Government succeeds in reopening Kyin San Kyawt Gate

Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the address at 23rd meeting of Private Sector Development Committee and businesspersons. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee (PSDC) and businesspersons held the 23rd regular meeting at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) office in Yangon yesterday morning.

The Vice President explained that some losses were incurred by farmers and businessmen who were exporting fruits to People's Republic of China due to the closure of Kyin San Kyawt Gate. The Ministry of Commerce responsible for private sector development led a group of officials to meet with Chinese embassy officials; they also conducted a meeting with relevant ministries to coordinate and resolve the matter. On the following day the Kyin San Kyawt Gate was temporarily re-opened easing damages and losses to a certain extent.

In his address to the meeting the Vice President said PSDC was formed on 24 October 2016 with 20 members to effectively carry out the tasks of private sector development framework.

> ... while during the August-December period of 2018, 8,514 new companies were registered under the new system of Myanmar Companies Online (MyCo) electronic registry system ...

Five work committees were formed to coordinate with relevant union ministries and state/region governments in resolving difficulties encountered by the businesses. Starting from 2016 December regular meetings were held with businesses and this was the 23rd meeting.

Responses to suggestions and submissions on difficulties faced by businesses up to the 22nd meeting were sent back to relevant businesses through UMFCCI.

In addition to matters that were resolved, there were some that need time to resolve fully. For example, in the 22nd meeting, 13 difficulties and suggestions were made. Of those, one was about the matter of notification 1/2018 issued by Central Committee of Consumer Protection about usage instruction of products to be included in Myanmar language or Myanmar and other languages within six months of the issuance of notification. As businesses had difficulties in meeting the six month deadline the matter was raised with the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Health and Sports for extension of the deadline.

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Golden ceiling donated to Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda in Inle Lake

A ceremony to donate a golden lotus ceiling for the shrine housing Buddha images at Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda, Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State, was held at the pagoda yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko opened the ceiling curtain to unveil the installed golden lotus ceiling at the shrine.

Also, attendees to the ceremony took Five Precepts from State Sangha Mahanayaka member Nyaungshwe Maithauk, First Pariyati Monastery principal patron Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Thumingalar Bivamsa, listened to the reciting of parittas, after which the Union Minister and donors donated offertories. Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko supplicated religious matters, as all listened to a sermon by Maithauk First Sayadaw and then shared merits.—Sai L Bae (Nyaungshwe) ■ *Translated by Zaw Min)*

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and donors donate offertories to patron Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Thumingalar Bivamsa. **PHOTO: SAI L BAE (NYAUNGSHWE)**

Rehearsal conducted for Children's Literature Festival (Sagaing)

A rehearsal for the Children's Literature Festival, Children's Literature Exhibition and Book Sales, jointly organized by the Information and Public Relations Department, Basic Education Department and District Management Committee, was held at No. 3 Basic Education High School, Sagaing, yesterday morning. Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun and officials viewed the rehearsal and exhibits prepared for the festival.

The Children Literature Festival (Sagaing) will be held from 9 am to 5 pm on 13 and 14 January in No. 3 Basic Education High School, Sagaing, and will include entertainment programs, exhibits, competitions, literature discussions, games, shops selling books, debates, story-telling, painting and coloring competitions, traditional games and Futsal competitions for the public.

The Men's Futsal competitions began yesterday morning with students participating from 16 basic education schools.

Maung Tun Tun Aung, from Basic Education High School Shwe Min Wun, who is participating in the futsal competition, said, "For students like us, education and health is important. It is good that sports competitions are included in the Children's Literature Festival, since we can strive to achieve our aims only when we are healthy.

Furthermore, through these competitions we will acquire the habit of teamwork." The sports competitions will be held from 12 to 14 January.—Aung Min Han ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspects the rehearsal for the Children's Literature Festival (Sagaing) yesterday. **PHOTO : AUNG MIN HAN**

Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson Ambassador Rosario Manato (centre) seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson and member departs from Yangon

THE Government of the Republic of Union of Myanmar has formed an Independent Commission of Enquiry, as part of its national initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine State. The Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson, former Deputy Foreign Minister of the Philippines, former Chair and Current Representative of the Philippines to CEDAW, Ambassador Rosario Manato, left Yangon by air yesterday morning.

The Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Strategic Studies and Training Department Deputy Director General U Zaw Phyo Win, Consular and Legal Affairs Department Deputy Director General U Zaw Tun Oo and officials.

Similarly, commission member, the former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, former Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, also left Yangon by air later in the evening.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Over K 70 mln of aid reaches displaced people in Rakhine State

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has provided over K 70 million in aid packages to displaced people in Ponnagyun, Buthidaung, Kyauktaw and Yethedaung townships in Rakhine State. The ministry handed over K20 million as aid for the displaced people at the Rakhine State Government Office in Sittway, Rakhine State, on 11 January, bringing the total amount of aid packages to over K 70 million. Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye expressed his sympathy to the displaced people, pledging to provide for their requirements.

In the event, the Union Minister delivered rice worth K 40 million for one month, mats and blankets worth K 9.9 million for 970 households, or 4470 people. Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and the displaced people accepted the supplies and expressed their thanks.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

VP U Myint Swe: Government succeeds in reopening Kyin San Kyawt Gate

Union Minister Dr. Than Myint.

Union Minister U Soe Win.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

Union Minister U Thaug Tun.

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In this matter, officials from the five work committees arranged for public-private dialogues among private businesses and relevant ministries to resolve the matter and thus a certain period of time would be required said the Vice President.

The trade sector plays an important role in the development of a country's economy. Private and public sectors were cooperating towards increasing annual trade volume and conducted trade in excess of US$ 18.3 billion during the April to September 2018 six months period. According to figures up to end December of fiscal year 2018-2019, the trade volume reached US$ 8.117 billion and this was US$ 0.449 billion more than the same period last year. Private sector participation in trade was US$ 7.094 billion or 87 percent and this was an increase. However import was more than export and thus export also needed to be increased to achieve trade balance.

Illegal imports through the border were threatening the existence of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and PSDC has formed illegal trade control and prevention groups in nine regions and states and during September to December 2018, 266 arrests of an estimated Ks 5.9 billion worth of illegal imports were made. Starting a Business section is an important and vital in increasing the ranking of Ease of Doing Business and starting from 1 August 2018, an online company registration system was started. As payment of registration fee was also through Online Payment, it was an important accomplishment of the e-government system that the Government was implementing. Looking at the latest situation of establishing and re-registering companies, a total of 32,917 companies were re-registered and 8,514 new companies were established during the period 1 August to end December. One outstanding matter was that from 2017 August to December only 3,758 new companies were formed while during the August-December period of 2018, 8,514 new companies were registered under the new system of Myanmar Companies Online (MyCo) electronic registry system. This was more than double in new registrations and thus showed the ease and smoothness of starting a business.

Investment Forums were held in Kayah State, Mandalay Region and Ayeyawady Region during 2018 to highlight investment opportunities and attract investments. Local and foreign investors were able to meet directly with officials from states and regions and opportunities to raise investment were obtained. Investment Forums have been arranged to be held in Rakhine and Chin State in February and March 2019 respectively.

Associations and entities participating in today's meeting were urged to discuss openly the difficulties they were facing with the relevant Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officials who were in attendance, said the Vice President.

Next, PSDC Vice Chairman and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint explained about works conducted for private sector development.

Afterwards Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win explained about the status of drawing up and implementing Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) and works conducted for development of banking and insurance works.

This was followed by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun who explained about the ministry's work on increasing local and foreign investments.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein then explained about works conducted and future works in Yangon Region for private sector development.

Later Improving the Ease of Doing Business Ranking Group leader Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo explained about future work processes to increase Ease of Doing Business Ranking.

UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win also explained about conducting public-private discussions, increasing export sector and status of sector wise works.

Officials from Chin State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Livestock Federation, Myanmar Oil Millers Association and UMFCCI then discussed about sector wise difficulties faced and made suggestions.

The Vice President, Union Ministers and officials responded to suggestions made and questions raised by the private sector business entrepreneurs.

It is learnt that the following officials also attended the meeting: Vice-Chairman of PSDC and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, Yangon Region minister for development affairs U Maung Maung Soe, UMFCCI President, Vice Presidents and members, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, officials from Chin State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Livestock Federation and Myanmar Oil Millers Association.

The meeting came to a close after some closing remarks by the Vice President. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo.

UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win.

Rakhine State Chief Minister provides aid to displaced people in Ponnagyun Township

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and wife present K 4.2 million to displaced people in Ahtet Myat Lay Village, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, together with officials, met yesterday with displaced people temporarily residing at Ahtet Myat Lay Village in Ponnagyun Township, Rakhine State, and provided them with aid.

During the meeting, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said the government is striving to fulfill the requirements of local residents who were displaced from their places of origin due to the security situation.

Also, doctors, nurses and medical equipment needed for healthcare will be provided, he said. Afterwards, the Chief Minister and party coordinated the delivery of basic requirements, such as food, health care and drinking water, for the displaced people.

On behalf of the Rakhine State government, Rakhine State Chief Minister and wife, and Rakhine State ministers distributed cash assistance of K 4.2 million along with 200 bottles of drinking water and 82 family kits to 427 displaced people from 88 households in Ahtet Myat Lay Village.

On behalf of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr. Ko Ko Naing of the Natural Disaster Management Department, also distributed cash assistance totaling K 3.753 million for a one month supply of rice, K 440,000 for 88 mats, K 416,110 for 176 blankets and K 50,000 to a pregnant woman. — Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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Winter birds to be registered at four sites across Myanmar

By Khine Sett Wai

Winter birds are migrating into Myanmar from November through February. **PHOTO: KHINE SETT WAI**

WINTER birds (or water birds) migrate to the southern regions of the world, including Myanmar, from November to February. As part of the Asian Waterbird Census Activity, water birds will be registered and the information sent to Wetlands International, said U Thet Zaw Naing, a bird expert from WCS.

A team registered the waterbirds on 6 January at Paleik Lake and Pyu Kan Lake in Mandalay Region. Also, separate teams will register waterbirds in Indawgyi Lake in Kachin State and Moyungyi Lake in Bago Region today. "The largest flock among the winter birds are ducks. The northern part of the Earth is colder in the winter season. Food is also scarce there, so they migrate to southern Myanmar and Asian countries to find food, and also because it's warmer and the days are longer. They don't lay eggs here. They'll do that when they return north," said U Thet Zaw Naing. He noted that officials collect the data annually and send it to the Netherlands-based Wetland International during the first week of May. He said hobbyists and the Department for Environmental and Wildlife Conservation are registering other migrating animals along the coastal regions.

U Thet Zaw Naing added that in the beginning, only the Forestry Department conducted the registrations, but has since received assistance from NGOs and enthusiasts.

Myanmar first started conducting registrations in 1987. Currently, the Forestry Department, WCS, Myanmar Birdwatchers Association, international birdwatchers and other organizations help with registrations in the Mandalay Region. *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)* ■

International Expo & Business Forum to be held in Mandalay

THE International Expo and Business Forum will be held in Mandalay in March, according to an official from the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI).

The International Expo and Business Forum will be convened in the first week of March, 2019, sponsored by MRCCI, in cooperation with the Mandalay regional government, the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Investment Commission, New Star Light Company and KBZ bank.

"The International Expo will be held in conjunction with the business forum. Currently, we are discussing the detailed agenda of the forum with the companies cooperating with us," said the official.

Products from other regions, in addition to those brought by entrepreneurs in Mandalay region, will be displayed at the forum. Also, the forum's organizers plan to invite international entrepreneurs to display their products and services at the forum. The forum will include discussion sessions regarding doing business in Myanmar.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Authorities destroy expired drugs, food, cosmetics in Mandalay

MANDALAY Region authorities destroyed expired drugs, cosmetics and foodstuff, worth an estimated K 280 million on Friday morning.

At the ceremony held at Ayeyeiknyein Cemetery in Patheingyi Township, a wide range of drugs, food and cosmetics were incinerated. The destroyed items included expired drugs provided by pharmaceutical companies, unsafe food products and consumer goods seized from the market, along with illegally imported drugs and cosmetics.

Expired drugs, cosmetics and foodstuff are incinerated in Mandalay on 11 January. **PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU (MANDALAY)**

Collaborative efforts have been made by members of the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) and Mandalay Region Food and Drugs Administration to seize more drugs, food and cosmetics that are unfit for consumption.

Also present at the ceremony were U Ye Mon, deputy mayor of the Mandalay Region, Secretary U Aung Kyaw Tun and members of the MCDC, officials from the FDA (Mandalay) and responsible staff from pharmaceutical companies.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Four killed, three injured by truck following brake failure in Muse

FOUR people were killed and three others injured when a 22-wheel truck collided with a motorbike and a 12-wheel truck in Talon Village, Muse Township, Muse District, Shan State (North), on Friday 11 January, police reported.

The accident occurred at 2.30 p.m. when the 22-wheel truck heading to Lashio from Muse, and being driven by 55-year-old U Khin Soe with two others on board, lost control between mileposts Nos. 265/6 and 265/7 near Nampaw Bridge and struck two people riding on a motorbike on the same side of the road. The truck only stopped after it struck a 12-wheel truck on the opposite side and overturned. The truck was heavily damaged.

In the 22-wheel truck, the driver and his passenger, Saing Naung Tun Lwin, sustained injuries due to the crash, while Saing Lwin Ko died on the spot due to serious injuries to his head.

The accident also killed the two men on the motorbike and the driver of the 12-wheel truck, while injuring another person in the 12-wheel truck. The injured persons are now receiving medical treatment at Muse General Hospital.

An investigation at the site showed that the accident was caused by a brake malfunction of the 22-wheel truck. The total loss caused by the accident has been placed at approximately K 15.3 million.

Police have filed a case against the 22-wheel truck driver under Section 279/337/338/304 (a) of the Penal Code, charging him with careless driving.—Van Ro Htan ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Mineral exports decrease 24% in Q1

MINERAL exports between Myanmar and overseas trade partners were valued at US$296 million in fiscal year 2018-2019, down by $95 million or 24.4 per cent, as against the same period in the last 2017-2018 FY, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

For the same period during the last FY, mineral exports totalled $392.159 million, with $303 million by the private sector and $88.6 million in the public sector.

In the first quarter of this FY, the public sector's exports of minerals amounted to $0.4 million, a decline of $88.28 million from the corresponding period last FY. Also during this period, private exporters sold over $296 million, which was a slight decrease in value by $7.4 million against last FY.

Children looking at Letpadaung open pit copper mine. **PHOTO: LAUREN DE CICCA FOR NRGI**

Other products which saw a decrease in export growth in the current FY included forest-based products and other miscellaneous products. When compared with this time last FY, the current export value of forest products declined by $6.9 million, whereas this year's export of miscellaneous products dropped by nearly half.

According to data from the Commerce Ministry, the country earned $3.7 billion from the export of seven major groups of commodities, such as agricultural, mineral, marine, animal, and forest products, manufactured goods, and other miscellaneous items. During the corresponding period last FY, the country earned $3.56 billion from the export sector. Within the 2018 mini budget period between April and September, the country's mineral exports were valued at $1.034 billion. As per the ministry's yearly trade report, the value of mineral exports was pegged at $897 million in the 2011-2012FY, $399 million in the 2012-2013FY, $1.339 billion in the 2013-2014FY, $1.498 billion in the 2014-2015FY, $968 million in the 2015-2016FY, and $1.010 billion in the 2016-2017FY.—Khine Khant ■ *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

Rules revoked for collecting charges on foreign currency deposits: Planning & Finance Minister

By Aye Yamon Oo

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance has requested revocation of the collection of 0.03 per cent bank service charges for foreign currency deposits at the two state-owned banks, Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank(MFTB) and Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank(MICB), said U Soe Win, the Union Minister for Planning and Finance.

He revealed the change at the 23rd regular meeting held on 12 January at the Office of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI). Vice President U Myint Swe and entrepreneurs were present at the meeting.

"Our state-owned banks were not losing money, until now. We always earned a profit. But those who deposit foreign currencies at our state-owned banks will now have to pay 0.03 per cent whenever they deposit foreign currencies. In fact, it is the banks that pay interest to those who deposit their money at our banks. Now, it is just the opposite, with customers having to pay the money. It does not make sense and it is not fair for customers. There are four banks which are still using the manual accounting system. We have requested the banks not to take any service charges for depositing foreign currencies. We believe that our request is quite good for customers," said U Soe Win, the Union Minister for Planning and Finance. The private banks are instituting reforms in the financial sector and the banking sector. In so doing, some banks are trying to meet international standards of conducting transactions. Also, some local private banks have been operating their businesses for 25 years. So local banks become competitive with their foreign counterparts, foreign banks will be permitted to operate in Myanmar beginning next year. "Besides charging for deposits, banks are selling forms. We are worried that there might be some problems in making money by selling forms. As I said, there are no banks that are running at a loss, but we don't want banks to earn money through the selling of forms. Therefore, we have submitted this matter to the government."

"When banks come to invest in Myanmar through cooperation with private banks, we will let them work under the rules and regulations," said Union Minister U Soe Win. The Digital Economic Development Committee, led by Vice President-2, is giving priority to the financial sector. The e-banking business will be conducted and e-payments will be made across the country to eliminate delays. Moreover, the Ministry of Planning and Finance is taking measures to ensure the use of cyber security to guarantee the safety of e-payment systems. The state-owned banks include the Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, Myanma Foreign Trade Bank and Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank.—*(Translated by Hay Mar)* ■

CMP imports up over 26% in current FY

MYANMAR'S CMP imports in the first quarter (Q1) of the 2018-2019 fiscal year stood at nearly US$559 million, up by $118 million or 26.7 per cent from the corresponding period in the last 2017-2018 FY, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

In Q1 of the last FY, the country's CMP imports by the private sector was $441.5 million.

Also, during the week between 29 December, 2018 and 4 January, 2019, local importers bought CMP products valued at $31.132 million, which went up by $11.5 million in comparison with this time last FY, when the import of CMP products totalled $19.6 million.

Imported by the private sector, CMP is one of the major groups of import products. Myanmar also imports capital goods, intermediate products and consumer goods from international countries. Between 1 October and 4 January this FY, the country imported capital goods worth $1.5 billion, intermediate goods worth $1.7 billion, and consumer products valued at $870 million.

The private sector imports registered a decline this FY. Apart from CMP, private sector imports of capital goods, intermediate goods, and consumer goods decreased by over $150 million, matched against this time last FY.

During the current fiscal year, the country has imported goods amounting to $3.9 billion through the maritime routes, and goods reaching over $712 million through the border points of entry. The country's total imports decreased by over $53 million from the same period last year.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Border trade with ITCs reaches nearly K 16 bln in current FY

BORDER trade using the Individual Trading Card (ITC) hit nearly K 16 billion, as of 28 December of 2018-2019 FY, comprised of exports valued at K 3 billion and imports worth K 12.9 billion, according to statistics provided by the Ministry of Commerce. Of Myanmar's border gates, the Myawady and Mawtaung checkpoints experienced the largest amount of trade with ITCs, with estimated values of K 7.9 billion and K 4.6 billion, respectively. The border trade values with ITCs, as of 28 December this FY, were over K 1.6 billion in Tamu, over K 18 million in Muse, K 44 million in Tachilek, over K 3.4 million in Lweje, over K 536 million in Kanpiketee, K 727 million in Kawthoung, over K 53.9 million in Reed, and K 279 million in Keng Tung, according to Commerce Ministry statistics. The Trade Department has issued 1,589 cards so far, with 292 cards from 21 Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, 261 cards in 2013-2014 FY, 317 cards in 2014-2015 FY, 146 cards in 2015-2016, 248 cards in 2016-2017 FY, 168 cards in 2017-2018 FY, 92 cards from 1 April 2018 to the 30 Sep 2018 interim period, and 65 cards from 1 Oct 2018 to 28 Dec 2018.—Zwe ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Meeting to form WCC held in Hlinethaya Township

LABOUR authorities and representatives of employers and employees held a meeting in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone in Yangon yesterday to form the Workers Coordinating Committee-WCC.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Thein Swe said those at the meeting seek to form Workers Coordinating Committees in factories, workshops and work sites, which will become the basic group for peacefully settling disagreements.

The ministry is prioritizing the enacting and amending of labour laws, in addition to creating job opportunities, ensuring that workers have appropriate jobs, as well as safe and healthy work sites, and obtain their rights, in accordance with existing labour laws.

Union Minister U Thein Swe visits the training centre for the Garment Sewing Machine Operator (Level-1) at Shwe Than Lwin Industry Zone, Hlinethaya Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

According to the Settlement of Labour Disputes Law in any workshops or sites that have 30 workers and above, the employer is to form Workers Coordinating Committees according to the law. The law states that complaints by employers or employees are to be made to the committee, and the committee is to discuss and resolve complaints. In addition to resolving and reducing disagreements and conflicts between employers and employees, requirements and requests can be made in advance, resulting in resolution and preventing any disagreements or conflicts from arising.

That was the reason this meeting was held, to press for the establishment of Workers Coordinating Committees, said the Union Minister.

Later, possible difficulties and issues in forming Workers Coordinating Committees were discussed by the representatives of employers and workers. After the meeting, the Union Minister went to Bogard Lingerie Myanmar Training Center of Bogard Lingerie (Yangon) Ltd, owned by Mr. Chung Fook Pui in Shwe Than Lwin Industry Zone, Hlinethaya Township, and inspected the group's assessment of standards pertaining to 50 workers for the Garment Sewing Machine Operator (Level-1) position.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Sports competitions commemorate 2019 Naga traditional New Year in Leshi

Sports competition to commemorate 2019 Naga traditional New Year was held at Sagaing Region, Naga Self-Administered Region, Leshi town Ahmuhtan Ward, Naga traditional culture ground yesterday morning.

Nine types of sports/games consisting of volleyball (male/female), Sepak Takraw (male), tug-of-war (male/female), marathon (male), pillow-fight (male), shot-put (male/female), traditional wood chopping (male), traditional wrestling (male) and greasy-pole climbing (male) were competed by locals as well as visitors. Winners of the competitions were presented with prizes by officials according to Sagaing Region sports competition organizing committee chairman U Aung Naing Swe.

Sepak Takraw men's competition in progress at sports arena in Leshi Township yesterday, celebrating the 2019 Naga traditional New Year. **PHOTO: HTUT KO KO (YINMABIN)**

In addition to this exhibition on blacksmith, pottery, handloom, handicraft, traditional medicine, precognition, Naga tradition, Department of Agriculture, Education, Health and Sports ministry, Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department were also exhibited. Releasing of traditional hot-air balloons and tribal traditional dance performances were also conducted in towns like Leshi, Lahe, Nanyun of Naga Self-Administered Region celebrating 2019 Naga traditional New Year.

2019 Naga traditional New Year festival will be held in Leshi town from 14 to 16 January it is learnt. Local and foreign visitors can base in Leshi town to visit traditional house museum, step-irrigation, shifting hill agriculture and nearby mountains like Mt. Sarameti. Local and foreign visitors coming to 2019 Naga traditional New Year festival come by air and land from cities and town like Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Monywa to Homalin, night stop there and then by land through Homalin Township to Pinma Village, cross by a landing craft to Htamanthi village and then by car to Leshi town 42 miles away. Some visitors come in a group riding motorcycles and more than 10,000 visitors are expected to visit according to Leshi town 2019 Naga traditional New Year festival organizing committee chairman U Aung Htut.—Htut Ko Ko (Yinmabin) ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

PHOTO: YAMANYA

Naga community in Yangon celebrates traditional new year

NAGA COMMUNITY in Yangon celebrated the traditional new year of Naga at the Judson Centre in Yangon yesterday ahead of the 2019 Naga New Year Festival in Leshi to be held from 14 to 16 January.

The annual celebration is organized by the Naga Literature and Culture Committee (Yangon).

"We celebrated our traditional new year earlier than the New Year Festival which falls on 15 January because we decided to hold this even at the convenience of Naga people in Yangon. This event is aimed at building more trust and gaining strength by gathering yearly," said U Naw Aung Than, Chairman of the committee.

At the event, cultural dance troupes of Naga entertained the attendees with traditional songs and dances.

Located in Hkamti District in Sagaing Region in northwestern Myanmar, the Naga self-administered zone consists of three townships— Leishi, Lahe and Nanyun. The festival is held alternately in those towns to host all the Naga sub tribes.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

China's Huawei fires employee detained in Poland

BEIJING (China) — Huawei said Saturday it has fired a Chinese employee who was arrested in Poland on espionage allegations, as China's telecom giant distanced itself from the case amid Western concerns that it could act as a proxy for Chinese security services.

This week's detention of Wang Weijing follows the December arrest of Huawei's chief financial officer in Canada and US efforts to blacklist the company internationally over security concerns.

While China's government has vociferously defended Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou and demanded her release, the firm swiftly sacked Wang, who works at its representative office in Poland. "His alleged actions have no relation to the company," Huawei said in a statement to AFP.

"In accordance with the terms and conditions of Huawei's labour contract, we have made this decision because the incident in question has brought Huawei into disrepute," it said.

"Huawei complies with all applicable laws and regulations in the countries where it operates, and we require every employee to abide by the laws and regulations in the countries where they are based."

A Polish man was also arrested for alleged espionage along with Wang on Tuesday. Both men are suspected of having "worked for Chinese services and to the detriment of Poland," said Polish special services spokesman Stanislaw Zaryn. He said their apartments and workplaces were searched, adding that the Polish suspect had worked "for several state institutions".

The arrest in Poland is the latest setback for Huawei, following the arrest of the group's CFO in Canada last month. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Chinese foreign ministry said Friday it was "highly concerned" about the case and later said it was seeking to arrange a consular visit for Wang as soon as possible. The Chinese embassy in Poland has also asked Warsaw to "effectively ensure the legitimate rights and interests, and humanitarian and safe treatment of the person involved."

Western fears

According to the LinkedIn profile of "Stanislaw Wang" — Wang's Polish name, according to Polish media TVP — the detained Huawei employee worked at the Chinese consulate in Gdansk, Poland prior to his tenure at the Chinese tech firm.

At Huawei, Wang worked as a public relations director for more than five years before moving into his current role as sales director in 2017.

He is a graduate of the Beijing University of Foreign Studies.

His case is the latest setback for Huawei.

Its chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou was arrested in Vancouver on 1 December on request from the United States, which has accused her of fraud related to violations of Iran sanctions. Meng is the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, a former Chinese People's Liberation Army engineer.

Following her arrest two Canadians were detained in China on grounds of endangering national security, in what has largely been seen as retaliation.

Meng's arrest sparked a surge of patriotism in China with companies encouraging staff to buy Huawei smartphones — and several companies even offering employees subsidies to buy phones from the home-grown company.

'No evidence'

Huawei in December said it expects to see a 21 per cent rise in revenue for 2018 despite what it called "unfair treatment" around the world, as several countries banned its telecommunications technology.

Last month, Britain's largest mobile provider BT said that it would remove Huawei equipment from its cellular network after the foreign intelligence service called the company a security risk.

Australia and New Zealand have also enacted similar bans, leaving Canada the only country in the "Five Eyes" intelligence network not to take steps against the Chinese firm.

Last month, a senior EU official warned that the bloc should be "worried" about Huawei and other Chinese firms.

Huawei has rejected Western concerns, saying there was "no evidence" that it poses a threat to the national security of any country.

Huawei's business is thriving in many places. Last year the company said it had signed memorandums of understanding for 5G equipment with 45 operators in Asia, Europe and North America.—AFP ■

Pompeo 'optimistic' Syria Kurds, Turkey can be protected

ABU DHABI (United Arab Emirates) — Washington's top diplomat said Saturday he was "optimistic" a way could be found to protect Syrian Kurds while allowing Turks to "defend their country from terrorists" despite a US pullout from Syria.

"We are confident we can achieve an outcome that achieves both of those," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told journalists in Abu Dhabi.

The Gulf emirate is his latest stop in a regional tour aimed at reassuring allies after a shock December announcement by President Donald Trump that US troops would be withdrawn from Syria.

Pompeo's remarks follow tensions between the US and Turkey over the fate of Washington's Syrian Kurdish allies in the fight against Islamic State jihadists.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrives at Cairo airport on January 9, 2019 as part of a regional tour. **PHOTO: AFP**

Turkey had reacted angrily to suggestions that Trump's plan to withdraw troops was conditional on the safety of the US-backed Kurdish fighters, seen by the Turkish government as terrorists.

US-led operations against IS in Syria have been spearheaded on the ground by the Kurdish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces.

Turkey sees the backbone of that alliance, the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), as a terrorist group linked to the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) which has fought a decades-long insurgency against the Turkish state.

Pompeo said Friday that Washington recognised "the Turkish people's right and (Turkish President Recep Tayyip) Erdogan's right to defend their country from terrorists".

But, he added, "we also know that those are fighting alongside of us for all this time deserve to be protected as well."

Pompeo said he had spoken to Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.

"Many details (are) still to be worked out but I'm optimistic that we can achieve a good outcome," he said.—AFP ■

Egypt police kill 6 militants in shootout: ministry

CAIRO (Egypt) — Egyptian police killed six suspected Islamist militants in a shootout early Saturday in the country's south, the interior ministry said.

The clashes broke out during a police raid on a militant hideout in a mountainous area on the edge of the southern province of Sohag, some 460 kilometres (285 miles) south of Cairo, the ministry said in a statement. Police seized weapons and ammunition, it added. The operation is part of "the interior ministry's efforts to confront terrorist organisations aiming to undermine security and stability" in Egypt, it said.—AFP ■

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Infrastructure is key to equitable development

INFRASTRUCTURE plays a pivotal role in not only supporting the country's economic growth, but also in ensuring equitable development across the country because of Myanmar's geographical location.

The Union Government inaugurated a road and hydro power plant in northern Myanmar recently to lift the socio economic standards for local ethnic people in this far-flung area.

Infrastructure — the roads, railways, telecommunications, power generation and distribution network, as well as dams, irrigation and water reticulation facilities — is a key to economic prosperity.

The more a country is enriched with physical infrastructures, such as roads, railways and power plants, the more the country benefits, in terms of economic advancement and equitable development. Only when we bring about equitable development, can we build trust to achieve peace.

> Achieving electrification and a new road supports communication efforts within the country and with the whole world, and strengthens existing relations between local ethnic people.

The recent achievement in northern Myanmar would enable local ethnic nationals to bond more closely and strengthen their empathy and friendship with one another, which will lead to trust and peace among the people.

Roads and infrastructure are important for connecting all of us and developing our economy. Obtaining access to electric power supply grids will not just develop our lives, but also open the path to better opportunities for generations to come.

Achieving electrification and a new road supports communication efforts within the country and with the whole world, and strengthens existing relations between local ethnic people.

"While this power plant is not large by global standards, it is quite important for our country because it is in a central location. With Putao being in the northern and highland region, establishing an electric power plant here highlights the technological advancement of the country. It also shows everyone the cetanā (goodwill) and care we have for all ethnic nationals in the Union," said the State Counsellor, during her address at the opening of the hydro power plant in PutaO.

No matter how big or small a project is, the main drive behind it is cetanā and correct conduct.

No matter how far we are living, we are traveling the same path into the future, and the path we take is well lit, both from electricity and our spirits.

Everyone in the country is on this same path. We are all working towards the development of the nation, its future, security and stability. Building infrastructures can be seen as building trust to strengthen existing friendships and to build bonds akin to the close siblings of all ethnic peoples throughout the country.

To rebuild our country is the responsibility of each and every citizen.

Creating community-owned plantations in Taninthayi Region, while conserving natural forests

By Min Thit

ABOUT two miles from the 60-mile village in Taninthayi Region are the wide plains located between the mountain ranges. The village lies near the Ye-Dawei road sixty miles from Dawei in Yebyu Township.

On the plains are nearly 800 acres of community-owned forests, a small number of huts and crop fields including rice, sesame, corn, watermelon and banana fields.

"Villagers collectively established community-owned forest plantations one year ago, and now the trees are thriving," said U Lay Maung, a Mon ethnic and the administrator of the village.

In the past, local people had doubt about the community forest-CF. But thanks to the awareness campaign of the Forest Department, more people are growing trees, according to locals.

"There was mistrust. But trainings and all-inclusive discussions have erased the mistrust and later locals began to realize the benefits they can enjoy for their own labour. So they working with greater enthusiasm. But we haven't reached the satisfactory level yet," said U Lay Maung.

The 60-mile village has 84 households, 227 residents and an 800-acre forest plantation is under the care of 79 households. The village is in Yebyu Township, an agro-oriented area populated mostly by Mons.

Deputy Speaker of Thanintharyi Region Hluttaw U Kyi Soe said: "Ethnic people in the area live in the reserve forests. They are not acknowledged by the Forest Department. So we encourage them to set up legal CFs, apart from building production roads."

Taninthayi Region has the diversity of environment. **PHOTO: MIN THIT**

Taninthayi Nature Reserve Signboard. **PHOTO: MIN THIT**

Under the national forest master plan, local people will receive 25 per cent of their fuel from trees they grow in their yards, another 25 per cent from the CFs, and the remaining 48.8 per cent from natural forests. So, the plan will result in saving the natural forests. So, the plan will save the natural forests a lot.

A CF project was launched in 1995 for the locals to gain benefits without harming the natural environment through their participation in forest preservation. But it was not so successful because of the confines and the weakness of education campaigns. But thanks to an appropriate CF project adopted in 2016, public interest in forest plantations began to rise, according to Forest Department.

"CF will benefit the posterity. Today, we are enjoying the benefits of trees because of the efforts of our ancestors to conserve them," said Naw Ar Phaw, a 69-year old Kayin elder woman who is a member of the CF in Yepon village, Yebyu Township.

Fifty percent of Myanmar was once covered with forests. The country extracted more forest resources during the past three decades for export and local consumption. Sadly, forest areas significantly dwindled because of legal and illegal logging coupled with firewood and charcoal production. The result of forest depletion is the increase in carbon dioxide in the air, followed by climate change that destroys the natural environment and triggers various kinds of natural disasters.

Those natural disasters have killed people as well as wildlife. So the government and the people became aware of the need to protect the ecosystem and forests.

"Forests can grow and flourish without human beings. They can regenerate. But human beings cannot survive without trees and ecosystem. So forest conservation means protecting the natural resources and human beings," explained U Kyaw Zeya, director of Taninthayi Region Forest Department.

About 50 years ago, 80 percent of Taninthayi Region was covered by forests. But the 2015 figures indicated that forested land had reduced to 62 percent, according to Forest Deparment.

"Oil palm cultivation project is the main culprit that destroyed the forested areas of the region. With the aim of turning the region to an oil bowl, over 200,000 acres of forest inside and outside the reserve areas were permitted cut down to clear land for oil palm farms," said U Kyaw Zeya.

Myanmar set up 233,077 areas of community forest plantations during the period between fiscal year 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

At the 18th Energy Globe Award presentation ceremony held in Iran in January 2018, the CF of Yoesone village in Wundwin Township, Meiktila Township, won the Energy Globe National Award, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

UN-REDD Programme is providing financial aid to developing countries based on the volume of carbon dioxide emission they can cut. UN-REDD Programme in cooperation with Forest Department is implementing the REDD+ program covering the task of setting up CFs, extracting timber though less harmful means, and regenerating forests.

According to environmentalists, Myanmar must conserve forests and protect mangrove trees along the coastal areas to reduce carbon dioxide emission.

As for the countries with coastal areas, mangrove forests are the jewels the nature has presented. In fact, various species of trees grow in mangrove forests which serve as a home for fauna and the source of food for them.

A hectare of mangrove trees can absorb 17 metric tons of carbon per year. So they are much valuable for environmental conservation.

"Mangrove forests can absorb thrice the volume of carbon dioxide their terrestrial cousins can do. So mangrove forests are air cleaning factories of the Earth," said U Kyaw Zeya.

According to FAO report, Myanmar has the seventh largest mangrove forest in the world. Mangrove forest conservation and plantation project will be launched along the coastal areas from 2019 tp 2023.

In Taninthayi Region, there are over 300,000 acres of community forest plantations and nearly 600,000 acres of mangrove forests. Measures are being taken to conserve and protect mangrove trees through community-owned plantations.

"The economy of Taninthayi Region depends on fisheries. About half the population of people living in coastal areas earns their living through fisheries. As the sustainability of aqua resources will ensure the survival of fishery industry, we need to conserve them as they provide food and shelter for many aqua creatures," explained U Kyaw Zeya.

> Under the national forest master plan, local people will receive 25 per cent of their fuel from trees they grow in their yards, another 25 per cent from the CFs, and the remaining 48.8 per cent from natural forests. So, the plan will result in saving the natural forests.

While watching crops grown in the community-owned forest, U Lay Maung, a Mon ethnic, said, "When I first arrived here 16 years ago, the area was lush with flora. Later, the area became void of trees due to forest fires and timber extraction. Then bamboo forests took over their place. But I believe that soon, the area will be lush with trees again."

(Translated by TMT)

Educational reforms: a major step forward

By Arakan Sein

Nowadays, the government has put great emphasis on education. Educational reforms have been extensively discussed by educationists from different levels. Dr. Than Oo, U Ko Lay Win, Dr. Aung Aung Min, Dr. Win Aung and U Hla Tun are prominent educationists who get involved in round-table discussions on educational reforms, covering a wide range of topics which mainly include education, teaching and learning. Now let us have a look at the historical background of Myanmar education standard in Asia. Myanmar Language has borrowed words from Pali and Sanskrit since the advent of contact with these languages. As Myanmar is considered a major cultural and religious centre of Buddhism, the monastic schools flourished before the British colonial rule. During 1950s, many Asians were believed to have come to the then Rangoon University for further studies.

Education, teaching and learning

They are interrelated; the government is responsible for educational systems. It must accept a responsibility that teachers play an important role in our society, making us become successful in business or worldly affairs. Only those who genuinely want to teach should become teachers, be it male or female. Usually classrooms are staffed by teachers who had failed in other lines of work and turned to teaching as a last resort. After all, teaching still is not a get-rich-quick profession. For example, a chemical engineer with a bachelor's degree would most likely get a higher starting salary than would a teacher with a bachelor's degree.

Education

Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits. At the same time, educational methods include storytelling, discussion, teaching, training and directed research. Education frequently takes place under the guidance of educators, but learners may also educate themselves.

Teaching

Teaching is difficult to define; in 1966 the UNESCO/ ILO recommended concerning teaching something like this: " Teaching is a form of public service that requires teachers of expert knowledge and specialized skills, required and maintained through rigorous study; it also calls for a sense of personal and corporal responsibility for the education welfare of the pupils in their charge." The officials from UN organizations confessed that they could not step into a classroom and teach effectively. An attitude of informality between teacher and student is important in both teaching and learning. Such a relationship can only grow out of feeling of mutual respect between the persons concerned. So dealing with students for some time is necessary and in this regard trainings for all teachers are required for specialized skills.

Good teaching seldom happens accidentally

Even if necessary preparations are made, good teaching cannot be expected to come instantly. In the history of education, the Latin grammar teachers who were masters of their subjects happened to be very poor instructors. They had a great deal of knowledge but were lacking in the skills and techniques that make the difference between an educated person and an effective teacher.

Learning

Careful planning is a vital phase of good learning. The nature of planning is affected by age levels and other factors. The amount of detail in planning is influenced by the experience of the teacher. It can be assumed that a teacher who steps into a classroom unprepared for his task is not likely to engage in good teaching. Systematic studies of learning never cease; learning is a never-ending process and lifelong learning must be pursued by all teachers. In conclusion, the roundtable discussions on educational reforms are timely to replace the old outdated education systems. The advice and valuable suggestions given by prominent educationists should be implemented as quickly as possible. All in all the movement is a major step forward for the development of education sector.

Ref: To be a teacher: an introduction to education by SAM-ADAMS/JOHN L. GARRETT, JR.

World stocks end strong week on tepid note

NEW YORK (United States)— Stock markets in Europe and the United States slipped on Friday after several days of gains as investors took a breather in the absence of fresh news on trade talks between Beijing and Washington.

Earlier, Asian markets ended the week mostly on a higher note. Key European markets were as much as half a per cent lower at the close, while Wall Street finished a sleepy session marginally lower.

"US stocks are lower for the first day this week, paring a third-consecutive weekly advance that has come from lingering trade optimism and cooled concerns regarding the Fed making a policy mistake," said analysts at Charles Schwab.

"Equities are slipping amid likely caution ahead of the ramp up of earnings season that coincided with the Q4 market tumult," they said.

But analysts also said that the first full trading week of 2019 showed a solid performance after a tumultuous month of December for equities.

Traders work on the floor at the closing bell of the Dow Industrial Average at the New York Stock Exchange on 10 January, 2019 in New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Despite a lackluster end to the week, 2019 has managed to get off to a decent start despite equity markets finishing 2018 very much on the back foot," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets UK.

This week investors have been riding a wave of optimism on signs that China and the United States could eventually reach a trade deal—but there has been no concrete news yet even though both sides indicated that talks had been productive.

"Traders have yet to hear any further details about the US-China trade talks," said CMC Markets UK analyst David Madden, saying in the meantime markets "appear to be taking a breather."

Sentiment was also boosted this week after Federal Reserve chief Jerome Powell indicated the US central bank would likely slow the pace of interest rate hikes. Fed minutes on Wednesday showed policymakers were happy to hold off any more rate hikes as they assessed the state of the economy, backing up dovish comments last week by Powell.

These positive factors have allowed investors to set aside fears over a global economic slowdown that pummeled markets in December, as well as mounting concerns over a prolonged US government shutdown due to a budget dispute between President Donald Trump and congressional Democrats. A key catalyst for markets in the coming period will be fourth-quarter earnings period, which begins in earnest with results from JPMorgan Chase and other large banks.

Among individual companies, General Motors surged 7.1 per cent after forecasting better-than-expected profits for 2018 and 2019 following the job cuts announced in December.

The outlook also predicted solid sales in both the United States and China, despite trade war uncertainty that has raised uncertainty in both markets. — AFP ■

Nissan executive seen as close to Ghosn steps down

Photo taken on 21 December, 2018, shows the head office building of Nissan Motor Co in Yokohama, near Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

TOKYO—An executive of Nissan Motor Co who was seen as close to Carlos Ghosn, the ousted chairman of the Japanese automaker, has resigned, a company official said on Saturday, as investigations into allegations of financial misconduct against the once high-flying industry titan widen.

Jose Munoz, a native of Spain, held the position of Nissan's chief performance officer, in charge of overseeing its global operations. Munoz was particularly responsible for the automaker's key Chinese market but had recently taken a leave of absence.

Nissan explained Munoz's leave as due to his need to focus on different tasks. But a Nissan official said at the time that the "current management team was on alert against him as he is loyal (to Ghosn)."

From 2014 to January last year, Munoz served as chairman of Nissan's North American operations, after being in charge of sales and marketing in Latin America.

Tokyo prosecutors and Nissan's internal investigations have been expanding since Ghosn's ouster as chairman of the automaker at a board meeting on 22 November following his arrest for allegedly understating his remuneration in financial documents submitted to Japanese regulators for five fiscal years through March 2015.

On Friday, Ghosn was charged with two additional counts of financial misdeeds—aggravated breach of trust and violation of the financial instruments law by understating his remuneration for three fiscal years to March 2018.

Nissan has reportedly broadened the scope of its ongoing in-house probe to include decisions made in the past in the United States, Latin America and India.—Kyodo News ■

Industrial growth falls to 17-month low of 0.5 pc in November

NEW DELHI—Industrial output growth dropped to a 17-month low of 0.5 per cent in November on account of contraction in manufacturing sector, particularly consumer and capital goods.Factory output as measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had grown by 8.5 per cent in November 2017, as per data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on Friday.

The previous low was in June 2017, when IIP growth contracted by 0.3 per cent. The growth for October 2018 was revised upwards to 8.4 per cent from 8.1 per cent. During the April-November period, industrial output grew 5 per cent as compared to 3.2 per cent in the same period of the previous fiscal.

The manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the index, recorded a contraction of 0.4 per cent in November as against a growth of 10.4 per cent a year ago.

The mining sector posted 2.7 per cent growth during the month as against 1.4 per cent in November 2017. Power sector output also grew by 5.1 per cent from 3.9 per cent a year ago.

Capital goods output declined by 3.4 per cent, compared to 3.7 per cent growth a year ago. Consumer durables output also dipped by 0.9 per cent as against a growth of 3.1 per cent a year earlier. Consumer non-durable goods also saw a contraction of 0.6 per cent as compared to 23.7 per cent growth a year ago.

In terms of industries, 10 out of 23 industry groups in the manufacturing sector showed positive growth during November 2018.

As per use-based classification, the growth rates in November 2018 over November 2017 are 3.2 per cent in primary goods, (-) 4.5 per cent in intermediate goods and 5 per cent in infrastructure/construction goods.—PTI ■

Government shutdown becomes longest in US history

WASHINGTON (United States)—The US government shutdown that has left 800,000 federal employees without salaries as a result of President Donald Trump's row with Democrats over building a Mexico border wall entered a record 22nd day on Saturday.

The Democrats' refusal to approve $5.7 billion demanded by Trump for the wall project has paralyzed Washington, with the president retaliating by refusing to sign off on budgets for swaths of government departments unrelated to the dispute.As a result, workers as diverse as FBI agents, air traffic controllers and museum staff, did not receive paychecks on Friday.

Demonstrator hold signs during a protest rally by government workers and concerned citizens against the government shutdown on Friday 11 January, 2019 at Post Office Square near the Federal building, headquarters for the EPA and IRS in Boston. The rally was organized by The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). New England has 516 EPA employees that is now down to a staff of 22. **PHOTO: AFP**

The partial shutdown of the government became the longest on record at midnight Friday (0500 GMT Saturday), when it overtook the 21-day stretch in 1995-1996, under president Bill Clinton. Trump on Friday backed off a series of previous threats to end the deadlock by declaring a national emergency and attempting to secure the funds without congressional approval. "I'm not going to do it so fast," he said at a White House meeting.

Trump described an emergency declaration as the "easy way out" and said Congress had to step up to the responsibility of approving the $5.7 billion. "If they can't do it... I will declare a national emergency. I have the absolute right," he insisted. Until now, Trump had suggested numerous times that he was getting closer to taking the controversial decision.Only minutes earlier, powerful Republican ally Senator Lindsey Graham tweeted after talks with Trump: "Mr President, Declare a national emergency NOW." It was not clear what made Trump change course. But Trump himself acknowledged in the White House meeting that an attempt to claim emergency powers would likely end up in legal battles going all the way to the Supreme Court. Opponents say that a unilateral move by the president over the sensitive border issue would be constitutional overreach and set a dangerous precedent in similar controversies.

'Under siege'

The standoff has turned into a test of political ego, particularly for Trump, who came into office boasting of his deal making powers and making an aggressive border policy the keystone of his nationalist agenda.

Democrats, meanwhile, seem determined at all costs to prevent a president who relishes campaign rally chants of "build the wall!" from getting a win.

Both Democrats and Republicans agree that the US-Mexican frontier presents major challenges, ranging from the hyper-violent Mexican drug trade to the plight of asylum seekers and poor migrants seeking new lives in the world's richest country.There's also little debate that border walls are needed: about a third of the frontier is already fenced off.But Trump has turned his single-minded push for more walls into a political crusade seen by opponents as a stunt to stoke xenophobia in his right-wing voter base, while wilfully ignoring the border's complex realities.

For Trump, who visited the Texas border with Mexico on Thursday, the border situation amounts to an invasion by criminals that can only be solved by more walls."We have a country that's under siege," he told the local officials in the White House.

Some studies show that illegal immigrants generally commit fewer crimes than people born in the United States, although not everyone agrees on this.

More certain is that while narcotics do enter the country across remote sections of the border, most are sneaked through heavily guarded checkpoints in vehicles, the government's own Drug Enforcement Administration said in a 2017 report. —AFP ■

FBI opened probe into whether Trump working for Russians

WASHINGTON (United States)—The Federal Bureau of Investigation opened an inquiry in 2017 into whether US President Donald Trump was working on behalf of Russia, *The New York Times* reported on Friday.The investigation—a dual counterintelligence and criminal probe—was launched after the president fired FBI director James Comey in May 2017, the *Times* said, citing anonymous sources. The counterintelligence aspect consisted of determining whether Trump was knowingly or unknowingly working for Moscow and whether he was a threat to national security, the newspaper reported. It added the criminal portion related to Trump's firing of Comey. The FBI investigation was soon folded into Robert Mueller's inquiry into Russian interference in the 2016 vote and possible collusion between his campaign and Moscow, it said, adding that it was unclear if the counterintelligence aspect was still being pursued. The *Times* said that the FBI had been suspicious of Trump's ties to Russia during the 2016 campaign.

But it held off on opening an investigation until the president sacked Comey, who refused to swear his allegiance and roll back the nascent Russia investigation, which is now being spearheaded by Mueller. Trump has repeatedly criticized the Mueller investigation as a "witch hunt" and views it as a stain on the legitimacy of his presidency. But while Trump has slammed the probe as baseless, it has issued dozens of indictments and steadily chalked up convictions of some of the president's close associates—including his former personal lawyer, his ex-campaign chief and his former national security advisor.—AFP ■

A woman is evacuated by firefighters from an apartment after the explosion of a bakery on the corner of the streets Saint-Cecile and Rue de Trevise in central Paris on 12 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Several injured in powerful blast at Paris bakery: police

PARIS (France)—A powerful explosion badly damaged a bakery in central Paris on Saturday, injuring several people and smashing nearby windows after a suspected gas leak, police and AFP journalists said.

A fire broke out after the blast at around 9am (0800 GMT) in the city's 9th district, a residential and shopping area.

Images posted on Twitter showed debris covering the street and the lower part of the building blown out and in flames. Parked cars were also damaged in the blast.

An AFP photographer saw at least one person being carried away on a stretcher from the building by firefighters.

Firefighters worked to extinguish the blaze and exacuate some people from the building using ladders while emergency workers treated some of the injured at the scene.—AFP ■

Japan, France hold security talks to deepen maritime cooperation

Picture shows (from L) Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, Defence Minister Takeshi Iwaya and their French counterparts, Florence Parly and Jean-Yves Le Drian in Brest, France on 11 January, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

BREST (France)—The foreign and defence ministers of Japan and France held talks on Friday at a French naval facility in the country's northwest to deepen their maritime security cooperation amid China's growing military presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

The fifth "two-plus-two" meeting between the two countries took place in the coastal city of Brest, involving Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, Defence Minister Takeshi Iwaya and their French counterparts, Jean-Yves Le Drian and Florence Parly.

With the aim of realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific region based on the freedom of navigation and the rule of law, Japan has been boosting cooperation with France due to it being a maritime nation that deploys troops in its Pacific island territories such as New Caledonia.

In July last year, Kono agreed with Le Drian during a meeting in Paris to launch a new bilateral framework in fiscal 2019 to discuss maritime issues and strengthen coordination, in an apparent effort to counter China's rising clout in the Pacific Ocean.

At the Brest meeting, the ministers are expected to have touched on their commitment to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and enforcement of the UN sanctions on North Korea as well as cooperation toward early entry into force of a bilateral accord on sharing defense supplies.

During a Paris trip last July, Kono and Parly signed an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement which enables Japan's Self-Defence Forces and the French armed forces to provide services and items such as food, water, fuel and ammunition to each other.

Brest hosts one of the biggest French naval ports. The city has a graveyard of five crewmembers of a Japanese merchant vessel which was sunk in 1916 by a German U-boat attack while heading for another French port to ship food during World War I.—Kyodo News ■

Thai security forces kill two linked to deadly shooting at school

BANGKOK (Thailand)—Two insurgents believed to be tied to a motorcycle drive-by shooting at a school in Thailand's south were shot dead on Saturday, police said, as UNICEF warned of trauma for children near the scene of the lunchtime violence.

Since 2004 clashes between Malay-Muslim rebels and the Buddhist-majority Thai state that annexed the area over 100 years ago have killed nearly 7,000 people, mostly civilians of both faiths. The conflict rarely makes global headlines but is a reality for residents of border provinces where security forces maintain a large footprint, aided by poorly paid defence "volunteers" drawn from local communities. The four men killed in Thursday's shooting were all Muslims and were guarding a school in Pattani province when the attackers struck just before lunchtime with students mere metres away.

Pattani provincial police commander Piyawat Chalermsri told AFP on Saturday that two people with alleged ties to the school violence were killed in a shootout Saturday morning.

Though he did not give information about their identities or affiliation, he said he was "confident that they are the same group who carried out the attack on Thursday" by driving by on motorbikes. Authorities have also detained one suspect and are questioning five others, while a military source said an eight-year-old had been grazed by a bullet but not seriously injured.

UNICEF Thailand representative Thomas Davin said on Friday that one child at the Bukoh school attack was reportedly injured by debris and some who may have witnessed the attack could face long term psychological trauma. "This attack has undoubtedly put the school children, the teachers and school personnel in harm's way. It has put children at grave risk of injury or death," he said. "Such violence could also affect parents' willingness to send their children to school — potentially to the detriment of many children's learning and future development."

The 15-year insurgency has seen scores of teachers killed, slain for their perceived collaboration with the Thai state, which led to the use of armed guards at schools.—AFP ■

India's national stock exchange chairman Ashok Chawla resigns

NEW DELHI—Chairman of India's National Stock Exchange (NSE) Ashok Chawla has resigned from his post, hours after the country's premier investigating agency Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said federal government has granted it sanction to prosecute him in the Aircel-Maxis case, officials said."Ashok Chawla has resigned as Public Interest Director/Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) with immediate effect in light of recent legal developments," a statement issued by NSE said on Friday. The Mumbai-based NSE is the leading stock exchange of India. Chawla was named, along with other bureaucrats and India's former finance minister P Chidambaram, in the Aircel-Maxis bribery case being probed CBI. The CBI had filed its charge-sheet in July last year but had been waiting for the government's approval to start prosecution against the bureaucrats. Chawla, a former finance secretary, took over as chairman of the exchange in 2016. He had previously served as civil aviation secretary and chairperson of the Competition Commission of India. —Xinhua ■

Announcement of Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution of the following Pesticides registered by **Sinamyang Group Pte.Ltd** is transferring from **Close Friend Co., Ltd.** to **Diamond Light International Trading Co., Ltd**. Any objection regarding this transfer can notify at Joint. Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, west Gyogone, Insein within two weeks.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingerdient	Registration	Registeration No
1	Super Glykill 36AS	2,4-D acid 120 g/l +Glyphosate 240 g/l AS	P2017-4047	Provisional
2	Cypertin 25EC	Cypermethrin 25% EC	P2017-4051	Provisional

Close Friend Co.,Ltd.
No.827/A, Thu Mingalar Road, 7th Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon.
Ph: 018500424, 09421032105, 0943135303, 09401534797
Email: kanmyint999@gmail.com, closefriend.md@gmail.com

Announcement of Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution of the following Pesticides registered by **JIANGSU PESTICIDE RESEARCH INSTITUTE COMPANY LTD.** is transferring from **Close Friend Co.,Ltd.** to **Diamond Light International Trading Co., Ltd**.Any objection regarding this transfer can notify at Joint. Secretary , Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, west Gyogone, Insein within two weeks.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingerdient	Registration Type	Registeration No
1	ANDA SU YAN 14.5 SC	Indoxacarb 14.5%SC	Provisional	P2018-4223

Close Friend Co.,Ltd.
No.827/A, Thu Mingalar Road, 7th Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon.
Ph: 018500424, 09421032105, 0943135303, 09401534797
Email: kanmyint999@gmail.com, closefriend.md@gmail.com

Rise of renewables creating 'new world': report

ABOU DHABI (United Arab Emirates)—The rapid growth of renewable energy sources and the demise of fossil fuels are causing major changes in global politics, a special commission said in a report on Friday.

The shift "will alter the global distribution of power, relations between states, the risk of conflict, and the social, economic and environmental drivers of geopolitical instability," said a the commission set up by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).Solar, wind and other renewables, which currently make up around a fifth of global energy production, are growing faster than any other source, the report said.

Turbines at The Blyth Offshore Demonstrator Wind Farm built by EDF Energy Renewables are seen off the coast of Blyth, north of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in northeast England on 5 October , 2017. **PHOTO: AFP**

Commission chairman and former president of Iceland, Olafur Ragnar, said the shift will likely cause China to eclipse the United States, place oil-dependent Gulf states at risk and help impoverished African nations achieve energy independence."It is difficult to predict when, but this change is happening comprehensively and fast," Ragnar told AFP. The report, entitled "A New World", was launched at IRENA's ninth general assembly in Abu Dhabi.

"The shift from fossil fuels to renewables is driven by new technologies and falling costs, increasingly making renewables as competitive as conventional sources of energy," the report said.The cost of electricity from solar sources has dropped by 75 per cent since 2009 while the price of wind turbines halved over the same period, it said.

IRENA secretary general Adnan Amin said the body's analysis shows that "by 2020, all commercially available renewable technologies will be on par with, or cheaper than, fossil fuels competitors".He said that in 2017, a record 168 gigawatts of electricity were generated from renewable sources – double the previous year. The IRENA commission also warned that countries are heavily dependent on fossil fuel exports would need to adapt to avoid "serious economic consequences". But, it said, renewables will be a powerful vehicle of democratisation because they make it possible to decentralise the energy supply.—AFP ■

Termites can help reduce impact of drought: study

SYDNEY—A new study by international researchers has revealed for the first time that termites play a significant role in lessening the effects of drought in rainforests, showing once again that even the smallest players can have big effects on ecosystems.Termites are among the most abundant animals in tropical rainforests and are one of the only living organisms able to break down the cellulose in plant material.

"The sheer quantity of termites suggests these insects have important roles to play in rainforest ecosystems, however what that role is has never been understood up until now," study co-leader and University of Western Australia Associate Professor Theodore Evans explained. To conduct the study, the team removed termites from an area in Malaysian Borneo using baiting techniques, and then compared that patch to one with an unaffected amount of termites during the 2015-16 El Nino drought. They found that the number of termites in the unsuppressed area grew during the droughts, and that throughout that time they created a higher rate of leaf litter decomposition and nutrient heterogeneity, as well as increased soil moisture and seedling survival compared with the non-drought period. —Xinhua ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (020 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (020 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0156-469N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0156-469N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

INVITATION TO QUOTE
THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
China-aided Pilot Project of Poverty Reduction Cooperation in Myanmar
PROCUREMENT OF WORKS

1. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) under the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation as implementing agency (IA) of Myanmar , is being jointly implementing the East Asia Poverty Reduction Cooperation Pilot Project under the grant agreement Funded by the Chinese Government. The Joint Project Management Office (JPMO) intends to apply part of the financing for constructing of the following rural infrastructures at the two villages: Aye Chan Thar Village in Tatkone Township and Min Pyin Village in Lewe Townshipin the Nay Pyi Taw Territory and, now invites sealed bids from the eligible Local Companies and Chinese Companies having branch office registered in Myanmar.

Lot-1 Constructions for Aye Chan Thar Village in Tatkone Township

No	Item	Description
1.	1	School Building(RC, One Storey)
2.	1	Teacher Dormitory(RC)
3.	1	Library(RC)
4.	2	School Toilet(RC)
5.	1	School Fence (Chain link)
6.	1	Road Improvement (Concrete)
7.	1	Community Development Centre(RC)
8.	1	Rural Clinic(RC)
9.	1	Earth filling work for Sport field
10.	1	School playground

Lot-2 Constructions for Min Pyin Village in LeweTownship

No	Item	Description
1.	1	School Building(RC, Two Storey)
2.	2	School Toilet(RC)
3.	1	Community Development Centre(RC)
4.	1	River Bank and Related works
5.	1	School Playground

Lot-3 Road Improvement(Concrete)for Min Pyin Village in Lewe Township

No	Item	Description
1.	1	Road Improvement (Concrete)

2. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding(NCB) procedures as specified in the Project Administration Manual Guidelines: Procurement of Works under Grants by IPRCC ("Procurement Guidelines").

3. A complete bidding documents in English may be requested in free of charge by the eligible bidders having express interested, from the E-mail address below and clearly indicated interested lot number.

4. Sealed Bids must be delivered in person to the address below on or before Monday, 11 February, 2019 at 10:00am Myanmar Time. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened immediately thereafter at the address given below in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend.

5. Address for more information and request for electronic copy of the bidding documents:

Attn:
U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director
Department of Rural Development,
Office No.36, Nay Pyi Taw.
Tel: +95-673418633
Fax: +95-673418657
E-mail: ksaung@gmail.com
Cc email to: pldrd.npt@gmail.com, chinamyanmarjpmo@gmail.com

Shizuoka locals hope to entertain foreign tourists with comfort food

Isamu Kanazashi (l) works at an oden eatery in Shizuoka, Shizuoka Prefecture on 5 November, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

SHIZUOKA (Japan)—Shizuoka Prefecture may not be the first place that pops up in people's minds as the country's culinary centre, but the central Japan prefecture has rich local cuisine to offer visitors during the Rugby World Cup.

Shizuoka's cuisine is characterized by fresh seafood, such as bluefin tuna and "sakura ebi," tiny and transparent pink shrimps, due to its location on the Pacific coast. Green tea is another specialty of the prefecture. For visitors with a sweet tooth, baked goods and confectioneries using green tea may be a perfect choice to satisfy your cravings.

But for those rugby fans out celebrating or looking back after a match at Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa, some warm, traditional comfort food may be exactly what they need. "Oden," a simmering broth with tasty ingredients, is one of the most popular dishes in Japan in autumn and winter. But Shizuoka's oden has a unique twist and is different from that sold in convenience store chains or in other parts of the country.

There are two alleys in the city of Shizuoka with stores dedicated to serving Shizuoka-style oden, in which ingredients are skewered on sticks and simmered in a black broth made of soy sauce and beef sinew.

Takashi Sugiura's store, Odenya Obachan in Aoba Yokocho, one of the alleys, is usually packed with people. He keeps a notebook in which he asks visitors to leave messages and there is praise written in languages such as English, Chinese and Thai. "Not just the taste of the oden, but I think another attraction is sitting at a bar and talking with other visitors," Sugiura said. "I hope more foreign visitors experience this."—Kyodo News ■

Cuba to renovate Chinatown for Havana's 500th anniversary

HAVANA—Renovating Chinatown is one of the priorities in the programme to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the founding of Havana, which will be held in November, local media reported on Friday. In commemoration of the anniversary, authorities organized a general restoration programme, which includes refurbishing the popular area built by Asian workers. The buildings in Chinatown, many of which date back to the founding era and are of great heritage value, show certain signs of deterioration, the daily Juventud Rebelde said.

Buildings to be renovated included the well-known Chinatown sites like the offices of the Chinese newspaper "Kwong Wah Po," launderettes and traditional pharmacies. The restoration efforts also include the repair of public lighting, sidewalks and parks, street paving and the removal of overhanging electrical cables. According to historical data, the first 206 Chinese citizens arrived in Cuba in 1847 as laborers. During the 20th century, a large number of Chinese immigrants arrived in Havana and became an important part of the community. They built the Chinatown to promote their culture and cuisine.—Xinhua ■

Chris Jenkins (r), Gregg Rudloff (c) and Ben Osmo pose with their Oscar for Best Sound Mixing, "Mad Max: Fury Road," in the press room during the 88th Oscars in Hollywood on 28 February, 2016. **PHOTO: AFP**

Oscar winning sound mixer Gregg Rudloff dies of possible suicide

LOS ANGELES—Veteran sound mixer Gregg Rudloff, who bagged Oscars for his work on "Mad Max: Fury Road", "The Matrix" and "Glory", has died at the age of 63.

The Los Angeles County Coroner's office is treating his death as a possible suicide.

"It was reported to us possibly as a suicide," a spokeswoman for the coroner's office told Deadline.

"His body was found at his residence in Sherman Oaks on 6 January. A call was made, and during the call it was reported as a possible suicide. We won't know for sure until the autopsy is completed," she added.

Rudloff was an illustrious name in Hollywood with a career spanning 35 years.

He also received Oscar nods for "American Sniper", "Argo", "Flags of Our Fathers and The Perfect Storm" and bagged a 1986 Emmy for sound mixing on "An Early Frost".

He was a longtime collaborator of director Clint Eastwood; his first job being Eastwood's "Honkytonk Man" in 1982.

Rudloff's earlier credits include "Risky Business", "Footloose", "This Is Spinal Tap", "The Princess Bride", among others.

He later worked with Eastwood on "J Edgar", "Invictus", "Changeling", "Gran Torino", "Letters From Iwo Jima", "True Crime" and "Absolute Power", along with "Flags of Our Fathers" and "American Sniper".

With over 200 credits, his recent work includes "The Girl on the Train", "Fences", "Molly's Game" and "Captain Phillips".—PTI ■

Brianna Hildebrand joins John Cena in comedy 'Playing With Fire'

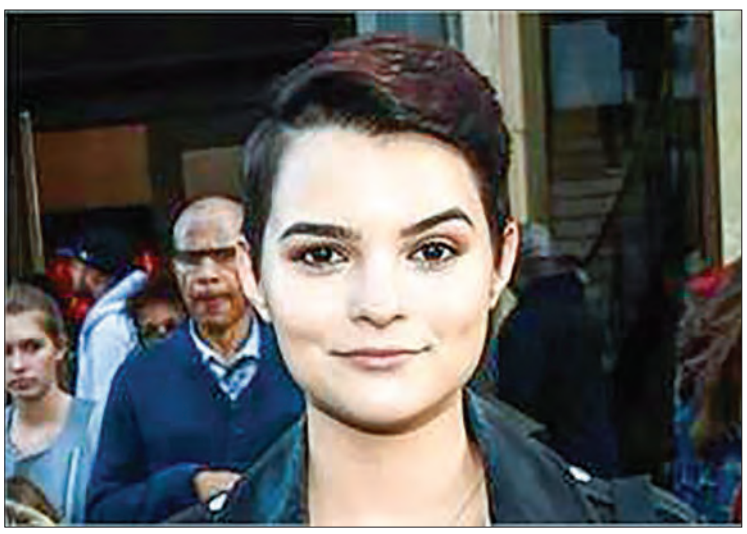
LOS ANGELES—"Deadpool" star Brianna Hildebrand is set to star alongside John Cena in Paramount Pictures' new comedy "Playing With Fire".

The film will be helmed by Andy Fickman, whose directorial credits includes comedies such as "She's the Man", "The Game Plan" and "Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2".

Todd Garner and Sean Robins will produce the project through their banner Broken Road Productions, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The studio had roped in Matt Lieberman last year to rewrite the spec script it bought from Dan Ewen.

The story follows a group of rugged wildfire fighters who meet their match when they rescue a trio of rambunctious children. Hildebrand, 22, is best known for playing Negasonic Teenage Warhead in Ryan Reynolds-starrer "Deadpool" series.



Brianna Hildebrand . **PHOTO: PTI**

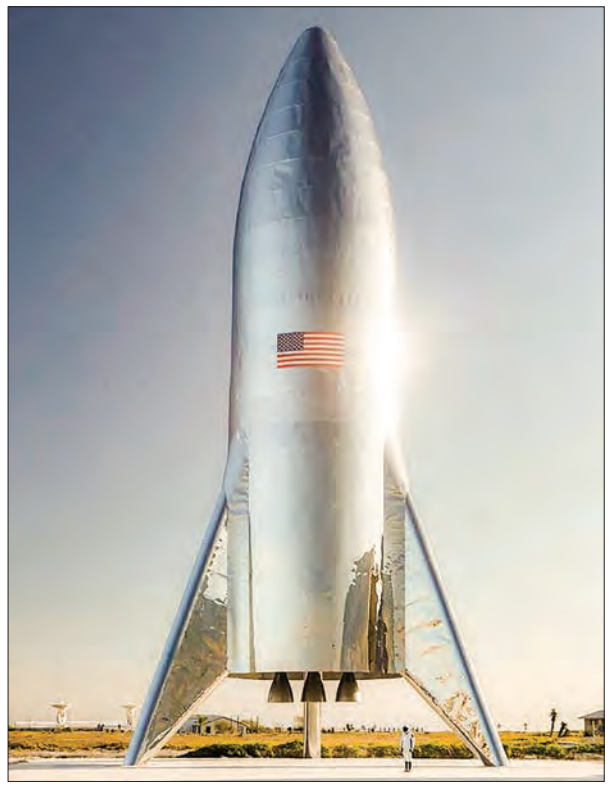
Cena, 41, most recently featured Paramount's "Transformers" spin-off, "Bumblebee", opposite Hailee Steinfeld.—PTI ■

Elon Musk shows off prototype of Mars-bound rocket, Starship

WASHINGTON (United States)—SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has unveiled the first pictures of a retro-looking, steely rocket called Starship that may one day carry people to the Moon and Mars. Musk posted pictures on Twitter late Thursday of the Starship Hopper prototype, which awaits its first flight test in Texas in the coming weeks.

"Starship test flight rocket just finished assembly at the @SpaceX Texas launch site. This is an actual picture, not a rendering," he wrote.The prototype built in Boca Chica, along the Gulf Coast of Texas, is nine yards (eight metres) in diameter—like the future rocket will be—but is shorter.Its first test flights—suborbital "hops" reaching several miles (kilometres) in the air before landing back on Earth—could come in March or April.An orbital prototype is expected in June. That version will be paired with a massive rocket booster known as the Super Heavy.

SpaceX has said the duo could one day transport people from city to city on Earth, as well as propel passengers around the Moon, to the lunar surface, and even to Mars and back.SpaceX currently launches regular supply missions to the astronauts living at the International Space Station, using its Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon cargo capsule.The company is working on a new Dragon crew capsule that could start carrying people to the orbiting outpost later this year.—AFP ■



This image released by SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on 11 January, 2019, shows the test version of the Starship Hopper, which awaits its first flight test in Texas in the coming weeks. The prototype was built in Boca Chica, along the Gulf Coast of Texas. **PHOTO: AFP**

Lithium-ion based batteries to become cheapest electricity storing option: study

LONDON—Batteries based on lithium-ion will become the cheapest way to store electricity in the near future, according to a study released on Wednesday by the Imperial College London.

The study, conducted by researchers at the college, calculates the cost of different energy storing technologies, including large-scale batteries and pumped-storage hydroelectricity.

They predicted that lithium-ion based batteries are becoming the cheapest way of storing energy for most applications, such as making sure energy grids do not suffer large fluctuations and allowing consumers to manage their bills.The research model shows that at present, the cheapest energy storage mechanism is pumped-storage hydroelectricity. However, as time progresses, pumped-storage hydroelectricity costs do not decrease, whereas lithium-ion battery costs come down, making them the cheapest options for most applications from 2030.

"Our projections show that lithium-ion technologies will see a rapid decline in costs over the next couple of decades. This is driven mainly by the fact that lithium-ion is manufactured at scale," said lead researcher Oliver Schmidt, from the Grantham Institute and the Centre for Environmental Policy at Imperial.—Xinhua ■

Tech to the rescue: New products aim to improve disaster relief

LAS VEGAS (United States)—After catastrophic wildfires in southern California late last year, the Israeli startup Watergen sent in its devices which pull clean water out of the atmosphere for firefighters and relief workers. The machines, which have been deployed in other global disaster areas, were among the technologies on display at the 2019 Consumer Electronics Show to highlight innovations which can be used in various kinds of relief efforts.

"We clean the air because it's much easier to clean air than it is to clean water," said Yehuda Kaploun, president of Watergen USA, who was demonstrating the device at the annual Las Vegas extravaganza which ends on Friday after showcasing futuristic innovations. Watergen claims its technology—offered in a commercial-size Gen-350 and a consumer version known as Genny—has many applications for emergency response and helping the many millions who lack potable water. The exhibits showcased a broad array of "tech for good" services which use robotics, drones, artificial intelligence and the like.

Attendees at CES 2019 in Las Vegas taste water created from the air by the Watergen GEN-350 device. **PHOTO: AFP**

Robotic legs, treacherous terrain

The show's "Resilience Marketplace" included technology assisting with emergency preparedness and response, and panel discussions at the event also addressed these issues.CES this year also included a conference panel on how technology can help "create more resilient communities" by tackling problems including poverty, health, education, and sustainability.

"Disaster recovery and public safety is an area in the drone industry experiencing exponential growth with a multitude of real-world applications," said Ben Marcus, chairman or AirMap, which allows operators to manage drones for emergency response. "When used for public safety, drones are cheaper, faster, and more effective in keeping people out of harm's way."

Taiwan-based startup Uupsafety won a CES award for its technology which monitors firefighters with smart wearables that connect to command centers. Japanese automaker Honda showed its prototype autonomous work vehicle which could be used in a variety of situations including search and rescue, firefighting and snow removal. "We've been testing (the vehicle) in real-world scenarios to demonstrate the value and capabilities of this unique machine," said Honda executive Pete Wendt.—AFP ■

Chinese researchers use AI to explore diabetes classification

BEIJING—Chinese researchers are using artificial intelligence (AI) to classify different types of diabetes, which may help Chinese patients obtain more precise treatment.

Different types of diabetes require diverse treatment. The current diabetes classification system, which has been used for more than 20 years is based on cause and pathological features, which has limitations in guiding clinical treatment.

Researchers from Peking University People's Hospital are working on a more elaborate classification of diabetes that may support individualized treatment.

They conducted research on diabetes classification based on the data of 2,316 Chinese people newly diagnosed with diabetes and 815 Americans.

Using the AI clustering method, they separate the two groups into four diabete subtypes based on five variables including age, BMI, blood glucose levels and insulin resistance indexes.

According to Zou Xiantong, one of the researchers, a previous study from Northern Europe has used similar methods to divide diabetes into five subgroups and demonstrated that the subgroups have different clinical manifestations and corresponding treatments. However, all cases involved in the study were from Northern Europe, and it is unknown whether it is applicable to other populations.

"We hope our research may provide data support for more accurate typing and treatment of diabetes in the Chinese population," Zou said.

The data analysis showed that the main clinical features of the four subtypes were basically consistent in the Chinese and US groups, which also coincided with the subtype characteristics of the Northern Europe research.

The research was published in the journal T*he Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology*.—Xinhua ■

Yangon United's Maung Maung Lwin (left) and Sekou Sylla (Right) celebrate victory after defeating Hantharwady United 3-1. **PHOTO: MNL**

Myanmar National League begins with Yangon United's win

THE 2019 Myanmar National League season began yesterday with Yangon United defeating Hantharwady United 3-1 at Yangon United Sports Complex.

Yangon United's lineup included local star goalkeeper Sann Sat Naing, Kyi Lin, Maung Maung Lwin, Yan Aung Kyaw and Pyae Phyo Zaw.

Yangon dominated the first half, taking advantage of many opportunities.

At the 10 minute mark, Sylla scored the icebreaker for Yangon, as his teammate Kyi Lin supported the ball to him.

Yangon scored its second goal, while Yangon's Miller assisted the ball to Kyi Lin, who scored at the 21 minute mark.

Once more, Sylla made the third and leading goal for Yangon at the 31 minute mark, as the first half finished with Yangon leading by three goals.

Hantharwady played even better in the second half, with their great football delivering and counter attacking.

Hantharwady made their first goal while kicking a foul ball by Mark Sekyi at the 89 minute mark, as the ball went directly into the net.

The final whistle was blown by the referee at the full time, as Yangon United won the opening match of the 2019 season, while earning three points.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Sandgren claims first ATP title in Auckland

AUCKLAND (New Zealand)—American Tennys Sandgren was left speechless on Saturday after claiming his first ATP tour title with a comprehensive straight sets win over Britain's Cameron Norrie in the Auckland Classic final.

The 27-year-old Sandgren took just 79 minutes to beat Norrie 6-4, 6-2 to round out a remarkable week of tennis without dropping a set.

"I'm a little lost for words," a relieved Sandgren said when a Norrie service return went over the baseline to end the match.

"A lot of work, a lot of training, a lot of sacrifice goes into even making a final and to get a win, I'm speechless."

In a tournament in which none of the seeded players made it to the final four, Sandgren was playing only his second ATP final—having lost in Houston last year—while it was the first for wildcard entrant Norrie.

Sandgren said his extra experience counted.

"I left that match thinking I played a really good one but I left something on the table. Mentally, I wasn't as good as I could have been so I didn't want to leave today thinking that I could have been more solid upstairs."

But there was no hiding the nerves for both players with 29 unforced errors from Norrie and 17 from Sandgren, a quarter-finalist in the Australian Open last year.

Norrie was in trouble at the start of match when he dropped his serve in the opening game.

The New Zealand-raised Briton broke back to level at 2-2 then immediately dropped his serve a second time, as Sandgren sealed the set with an ace.

Sandgren had too much power and accuracy for Norrie in the second set, breaking him twice before securing the match.

It was the first time Sandgren had beaten Norrie in their past four encounters.—AFP ■

Tennys Sandgren of the US celebrates with the trophy after defeating Britain's Cameron Norrie in the ATP Auckland Classic final on 12 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

MIC, VUC teams win in Myanmar Futsal League 2018

THE Week-10 matches of the MFF Myanmar Futsal League 2018 were played yesterday at the National Indoor Stadium I (NIS-1) and attracted futsal fans in Yangon to watch Myanmar futsal giants MIC and VUC teams secure victories.

Yesterday's games began with the VUC FC and Pyay United FC match, with a 10-0 win by VUC.

The second match, MIC FC against Shwe Myawaddy FC, saw MIC win by a score of 11-0.

The other matches included a draw score between Titan XII FC and Comrade FC, which finished 3-3.

The three matches were worth watching, as AMM FC beat UPT FC 6-2, GV Athletic FC beat White Colour FC 13-0 and Myoma YTD FC beat MFF U-19 by a score of 6-4.

The Week-11 matches will also be played at the same stadium on 15 January, according to the Myanmar Futsal League web page.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Wu magic sparks China to 3-0 Asian Cup win over Philippines

ABOU DHABI (United Arab Emirates)—Star striker Wu Lei fired a brilliant double as China beat the Philippines 3-0 on Friday to virtually assure their place in the last 16 of the Asian Cup.Marcello Lippi emerged victorious against old foe Sven-Goran Eriksson in a heavyweight coaching clash despite spirited early resistance from the Filipino 'Street Dogs' in Abu Dhabi.

China, runners-up in 1984 and 2004, improved to six points from two games in Group C after beating Kyrgyzstan 2-1 in their opening game. They should have led after 32 minutes when Wu Xi headed wastefully wide from point-blank range. But Wu Lei provided the spark five minutes before half-time, turning on the edge of the box and whipping a right-foot shot into the far corner. His second was even better as he swivelled to slam a Hao Junmin free kick past goalkeeper Michael Falkesgaard on the volley after 66 minutes to effectively finish the tie. Substitute Yu Dabao added a third with his first touch 10 minutes from time. Pulverised 8-1 the last time the teams met in 2017, the Philippines gave China more of a game this time, having lost 1-0 to South Korea on their Asian Cup debut earlier this week.Kevin Ingreso forced a fingertip save from China goalkeeper Yan Junling in first-half stoppage time but Eriksson's faded badly after the break. A victory for South Korea over Kyrgyzstan later on Friday would guarantee China's progress as they look to improve on a quarter-final finish in 2015.—AFP ■

China's forward Gao Lin (l) is marked by Philippines' midfielder Stephan Schrock during the 2019 AFC Asian Cup group C football match between Philippines and China at the Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on 11 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

Cancer causing Hledan

By Thu Naung Kyaw
(Hledan)
Dip. in English (YUFL)

A WELL-KNOWN modern teashop in Hledan makes a bowl of oil noodles in the way that the steaming hot noodles are sieved into a plastic water bowl with handle, commonly used in bathrooms, in which the concoction is done, afterwards being put into a porcelain plate and, finally, served.

Moreover, Hledan has another popular teashop, only two branches of which are running there in the town. There, when a glass of cold drink is ordered, they use a generous amount of unevenly hewn ice cubes, rather than using purified ice cubes. Also, the bottles of soybean with their rusty metal caps staining their mouths are not worth ordering.

Next, a roadside Monhingha shop, which, however, was known to be in the list of pioneers of the town, asked us to hold our horses as the broth had ran out. A moment later, a trishaw came with many plastic bags, each holding Monhingha broth – boiling hot – all of which was eventually poured down into the large bowl.

In the Hledan market, a wholesaling shop that sells fried vermicelli and fried noodles adds the entire packet of Ajinomoto, the seasoning powder, into a giant frying pan. Those noodles and vermicelli are sold to the other shops retailing various salads, pork on stick, and so on. Each plate of noodle salad, pork salad, and vermicelli salad is given an additional spoonful of seasoning powder when ordered. I am not going to talk about those fritter shops that are stealthily cutting the collected water bottles at the back!

I was wondering how many of such kind of shops there are in Sanchaung, Kyauk-myaung, South Okkala, and so forth that are equally cancer-causing like those of Hledan.

■

Design: BT

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Lesson – 15

A refuse d d ငြင်းဆိုသည်။
deny denied denied ငြင်းဆိုသည်

1. The boy refused to take the medicine.
လူကလေးသည် ဆေးသောက်ရန် ငြင်းဆိုခဲ့သည်။
(ဆေးမသောက်လိုပါဟုပြောခဲ့သည်။)
I offered to help him but he refused.
ကျွန်တော် သူ့ကိုကူညီမည်ဟု ကမ်းလှမ်းခဲ့သည်။ သို့ရာတွင် သူငြင်းခဲ့သည်။
Her refusal to marry him made him sad.
သူ့ကိုလက်မထပ်ပါဟူသော သူမ၏ငြင်းဆိုချက်သည် သူ့ကိုဝမ်းနည်းစေခဲ့သည်။
2. He denied that he had stolen the money.
ငွေခိုးခဲ့သည်ဟူသော စွပ်စွဲချက်ကို သူငြင်းကွယ်ခဲ့သည်။
(**had** နောက်တွင် **not** မပါသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။)
He said that he had not stolen the money.
ငွေမခိုးပါဟု ပြောခဲ့သည်။
We all could understand his denial.
သူ၏ငြင်းကွယ်ချက်ကို တို့အားလုံး နားလည်နိုင်ပါသည်။

B. report ed ed အစီရင်ခံသည်။
inform ed ed အကြောင်းကြားသည်၊ သတင်းပေးသည်။

1. He reported the matter to his superiors.
သူ ထိုကိစ္စကို အထက်အရာရှိများသို့ အစီရင်ခံခဲ့သည်။
The secretary has presented the report to the meeting.
အတွင်းရေးမှူးသည် အစီရင်ခံစာကို အစည်းအဝေးသို့ တင်ပြခဲ့သည်။
U Kyaw Win is a reporter.
ဦးကျော်ဝင်းသည် သတင်းထောက် တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
The speech is written in the reported speech.
မိန့်ခွန်းကို တစ်ဆင့်ပြောစကားဖြင့်ရေးထားသည်။
We heard the report of a gun.
ကျွန်တော်တို့ သေနတ်သံတစ်သံကြားလိုက်ရသည်။
1. He informed the matter to the police.
သူ ထိုကိစ္စကို ရဲသို့ အကြောင်းကြားခဲ့သည်။
He is a well-informed man.
သူသည် အရာရာတိုင်းကို သိထားပြီးသူဖြစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
Newspapers keep us well-informed.
သတင်းစာများသည် ငါတို့ကို အသိပညာများစွာပေးသည်။
Where did you get this information?
မင်းဒီသတင်း ဘယ်ကရခဲ့သလဲ။
He is our informant.
သူသည် ကျွန်တော်တို့ကို သတင်းပေးသူတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
That man, however, is an informer.
သို့ရာတွင် ထိုသူသည် သတင်းပေးတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။

C. leave left left ထွက်ခွာသည်၊ ထားပစ်ခဲ့သည်။
leave ခွင့်။

1. Ko Ko left Yangon for Mandalay yesterday.
ကိုကို ရန်ကုန်မှမန္တလေးသို့ မနေ့ကထွက်ခွာသွားသည်။
He left his umbrella at the office.
သူထီးကို ရုံးမှာ ထားပစ်ခဲ့သည်။ (မေ့ကျန်ခဲ့သည်။)
You will be left behind if you do not work hard.
မင်းမကြိုးစားလျှင်၊ နောက်ကျန် နေရစ်လိမ့်မည်။
Don't leave incorrect things uncorrected.
မမှန်သော အရာများကို မပြင်ဆင်ဘဲ မထားပါနှင့်။
He left school altogether.
သူကျောင်းမှ အပြီးအပိုင်ထွက်သွားသည်။
He is on leave.
သူခွင့်ယူထားသည်။
She has taken leave from school today.
သူယနေ့ကျောင်းမှ ခွင့်ယူထားသည်။

D. aim ed ed ရည်ရွယ်သည်၊ ချိန်သည်။
aim ရည်ရွယ်ချက်၊ ချိန်ခြင်း။

1. He aimed at joining the army when he graduated.
ဘွဲ့ရသောအခါ စစ်ထဲဝင်ရန် သူ ရည်ရွယ်ခဲ့သည်။
Ma Ma aimed at becoming a teacher.
မမသည် ဆရာမတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်ရန် ရည်ရွယ်ခဲ့သည်။
aim at နောက်တွင် **ing** ပုံစံလိုက်ရသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။
အမေရိကန်များကမူ **aim to** နောက် မူရင်းကြိယာလိုက်သည့်ပုံစံသုံးသည်။
2. The hunter aimed at the tiger and fired.
မုဆိုးသည် ကျားကိုချိန်၍ (သေနတ်ဖြင့်) ပစ်လိုက်သည်။
He took careful aim at the target.
သူသည် ပစ်မှတ်ကို ဂရုတစိုက်ချိန်ခဲ့သည်။
3. What is your aim in life?
မင်းဘဝရည်မှန်းချက်ကဘာလဲ။
His aim is to become a writer.
သူ့ဘဝရည်မှန်းချက်မှာ စာရေးဆရာတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။
What are the aims and objects of the project?
ဤစီမံခန့်ချက်၏ ရည်မှန်းချက်များကား အဘယ်နည်း။

E. do did done ပြုလုပ်သည် (ဆောင်ရွက်သည်)
make made made လုပ်သည်။

1. She does not know how to swim.
သူမ ရေမကူးတတ်ပါ။
They do not get up early.
သူတို့ စောစောထလေ့မရှိပါ။
He did not marry her.
သူ သူမကို လက်မထပ်ခဲ့ပါ။
Please do me a favour.
ကျေးဇူးပြု၍ ကျွန်တော့်ကို တစ်ခုလောက်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးပါ။
She has done her homework.
သူမ အိမ်စာလုပ်ပြီးပြီ။
He does a lot of outside reading.
သူအပြင်စာများစွာ ဖတ်သည်။
I like her hair-do.
ကျွန်တော် သူမ၏ ဆံပင်ပုံစံကိုကြိုက်သည်။
If necessary, we must do without luxuries.
လိုအပ်လျှင် ကျွန်တော်တို့ ဇိမ်ခံပစ္စည်းမရှိဘဲနေရမည်။
Great talkers are never great doers.
လေအိုးများသည် မည်သည့်အခါမှ လက်တွေ့သမားများမဖြစ်နိုင်။
It is easier said than done.
အပြောလွယ်သလောက် အလုပ်ခက်၏။
Please do come to the reception.
ကျေးဇူးပြု၍ ဧည့်ခံပွဲကို လာဖြစ်အောင်လာပါ။
I have done well so far.
ကျွန်တော် ယခုအထိတော့ ကောင်းကောင်းဖြေနိုင်ပါသည်။
I have nothing to do with her.
ကျွန်တော်သူမနှင့် ဘာမှမပတ်သက်ပါ။
We should do away with this custom.
ငါတို့ဤဓလေ့ဟောင်းကို ဖျက်သိမ်းသင့်သည်။
He is doing business.
သူအရောင်းအဝယ်လုပ်နေသည်။
2. She is making a dress for you.
သူမ မင်းအတွက် ဝတ်စုံတစ်စုံချုပ်နေသည်။
Ma Ma is making tea for us.
မမတို့အတွက် လက်ဖက်ရည် ဖျော်နေသည်။
Make hay while the sun shines.
နေပူနေစဉ်မြက်ခြောက်လှမ်းပါ။ (လသာတုံးပိုင်းငင်ပါ။)
Cheese is made from milk.
ဒိန်ခဲကို နွားနို့မှလုပ်သည်။
Law makers should not be law breakers.
ဥပဒေပြုလုပ်သူများသည် ဥပဒေချိုးဖောက်သူများ မဖြစ်သင့်ပါ။
Reading makes a full man.
စာဖတ်ခြင်းသည် ဗဟုသုတပြည့်ဝသူတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်စေသည်။
She will make a good wife.
သူမသည် ဇနီးကောင်းတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်လာလိမ့်မည်။
He made a speech at the meeting.
သူအစည်းအဝေးတွင် မိန့်ခွန်းပြောခဲ့သည်။
Ko Ko made a lot of money last year.
ကိုကိုမနှစ်က ငွေအများကြီးရှာနိုင်ခဲ့သည်။
She has made a name as a vocalist.
သူမသည် အဆိုတော်တစ်ယောက်အဖြစ် နာမည်ရခဲ့ပြီ။
He is a self-made man.
သူသည် ကိုယ့်ဘဝကိုယ် ဖန်တီးခဲ့သူတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
The teacher made the boy stand on the bench.
ဆရာသည် လူကလေးကို ခုံတန်းပေါ် ရပ်ခိုင်းခဲ့သည်။
The news made her happy.
ဤသတင်းသည် သူမကို ပျော်ရွှင်စေခဲ့သည်။
They are making preparations for the festival.
သူတို့သည် ပွဲတော်အတွက် ပြင်ဆင်မှုများပြုလုပ်နေသည်။
Mother is making arrangements for the dinner.
အမေသည် ညစာအတွက် အစီအစဉ်များလုပ်နေသည်။
They made peace at last.
နောက်ဆုံး၌ သူတို့ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးရအောင် လုပ်ခဲ့သည်။ (ငြိမ်းချမ်းခဲ့သည်။)
He made an effort to see her.
သူမကိုတွေ့ရန် သူကြိုးပမ်းခဲ့သည်။
He made a decision to sell the house.
အိမ်ရောင်းရန် သူဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်ချခဲ့သည်။
An army is made up of soldiers.
စစ်တပ်တစ်တပ်ကို စစ်သားများဖြင့်တည်ဆောက်ထားသည်။
I cannot make out what they are talking about.
သူတို့ပြောနေကြသည်ကို ငါနားမလည်ပါ။

F. spend spent spent သုံးသည်၊ ကုန်ဆုံးစေသည်။
1. She spends all her earnings every month.
သူမသည် လစဉ်ဝင်ငွေအားလုံးကို သုံးပစ်သည်။
He spent a lot of money last month.
သူ ယခင်လက ငွေများစွာသုံးခဲ့သည်။
2. I spend most of my time reading.
ကျွန်တော်သည် ကျွန်တော်၏အခြိန်အများစုကို စာဖတ်ခြင်းဖြင့် ကုန်ဆုံးစေသည်။
She will spend her summer vacation at Taunggyi.
သူမ နွေရာသီအားလပ်ရက်ကို တောင်ကြီးမြို့တွင် ကုန်ဆုံးစေလိမ့်မည်။

G. Act ed ed ပြုမူသည်၊ ဆောင်ရွက်သည်၊ သရုပ်ဆောင်သည်။
1. You must act at once.
မင်း ချက်ချင်းဆောင်ရွက်ရမည်။
2. He knows how to act.
သူ သရုပ်ဆောင်တတ်သည်။
3. She thanked him for his act of kindness.
သူမသည် သူ့ကို သူ၏ကြင်နာသော အပြုအမူအတွက် ကျေးဇူးတင်ခဲ့သည်။
4. He is a man of action.
သူသည် လက်တွေ့သမား တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
Their first action is to send the wounded to the hospital.
သူတို့၏ ပထမဆုံးလုပ်ငန်းမှာ ဒဏ်ရာရသူများကို ဆေးရုံသို့ပို့ခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။
Action will be taken against those who break these rules.
ဤစည်းကမ်းချက်များအား ဖောက်ဖျက်သူများကို အရေးယူလိမ့်မည်။
5. I like her acting in this film.
ကျွန်တော် ဤကားမှ သူမ၏ သရုပ်ဆောင်မှုကို ကြိုက်သည်။
She is a famous film actress.
သူမသည် ကျော်ကြားသော ရုပ်ရှင်မင်းသမီးတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
He is a film actor.
သူသည် ရုပ်ရှင်မင်းသား တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
6. I took part in the social activities of the school.
ကျွန်တော်သည် ကျောင်း၏လူမှုရေးလုပ်ငန်းများ၌ ပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲခဲ့သည်။
7. Although he is over 60, he is still healthy and active.
သူ့အသက် ၆၀ ကျော်ပြီဖြစ်သော်လည်း ယခုတိုင်အောင် ကျန်းမာဖျတ်လတ်သေးသည်။
The enemy forces are active in that area.
ရန်သူအင်အားစုများသည် ထိုဒေသတွင် လှုပ်ရှားနေသည်။

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(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

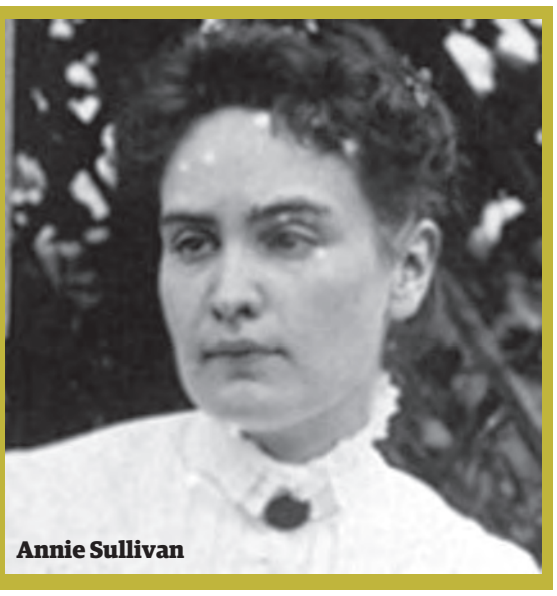
TEACHERS ARE WINNERS

By Htet Zaw Htoo (SUOE)
Senior Assisant Teacher at B.E.H.S. Minemaw

ACCORDING to Myanmar belief, the word 'Saya' (teacher) comes from 'Sar Yar', which means 'shadow'. Shadow makes everybody cool and fresh and gives strength to continue their work successfully. Similarly, teachers welcome every pupil friendly and warmly. Besides, they teach them what is right or wrong to be successful in their life. It is teacher who has a chance to do teaching between humans. It is lucky for a teacher to help a person's life to be successful. There is always a teacher behind a successful story. There are lots of examples in which teachers help their students to get success. Therefore, it is said that teachers are winners.

One of such famous stories is Helen Keller and her teacher Annie Sullivan. Though Helen used to be a happy and intelligent girl until she got a mysterious illness, she became blind and deaf after the illness, which she suffered from when she was two years old. Her whole world became dark and lonely. However, the light of hope appeared in her life after five years. Her father, Captain Arthur Keller, contacted the Perkins Institute for the Blind in Boston. Then he asked the director of the institute help for Helen. The director requested Annie Sullivan, a young woman teacher, to help Helen to learn language, the key to the world, and open the treasure in Helen. After

Helen Keller



Annie Sullivan

she thought about it many times, Annie agreed to help Helen. Long story short, Annie tried her best to teach Helen not only language but also good manners. However, the Kellers themselves felt disappointed at her teaching method because they did not think hers was not on the right track. Besides, they thought that Annie made Helen unhappy and tired. However, Annie never felt depressed and never gave up her effort. As a result, she helped successfully Helen learn language, the key to the world. Later, Helen kept learning to read and write. She graduated from Radcliffe College, one of the best colleges in America. Later, she became a world-famous writer and appeared in some films though she was blind and deaf. It is Annie Sullivan, Helen teacher, who stayed together with Helen till her last breath and helped Helen's life not to die itself and lose her best value. If Annie did come to Helen's life and was not her teacher, it is frustrating to think how Helen spent his whole life. When Helen became famous, everybody wanted to know who was her teacher and praised at her all over the world. It is like a coach of the team which won the champion cup. Accordingly, it can be said that teachers are winners.

People said that there are most important and noble professions in the world. Medical doctors, teachers and lawyers are those who do these professions. As people said, teaching is a noble profession and it is a kind of art. It is art that makes people either good or bad and so is teaching. Teaching by teachers makes people good but it can also make them bad. Therefore, it is very important for teachers to teach their students only good things. Teachers are winners but they may be losers if what they teach and how they teach are not on the right track. It is important to notice that there is a teacher in every successful story but there is a teacher in a bad story too. In conclusion, teachers are winners if what they teach and how they teach are on the right track. Otherwise, they might become losers who produce people who are good-for-nothing for our society. Therefore, every teacher ought to try what they teach and how they teach are on the right track to be winners.

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Next Generation POEM

"Passers-by of the world"

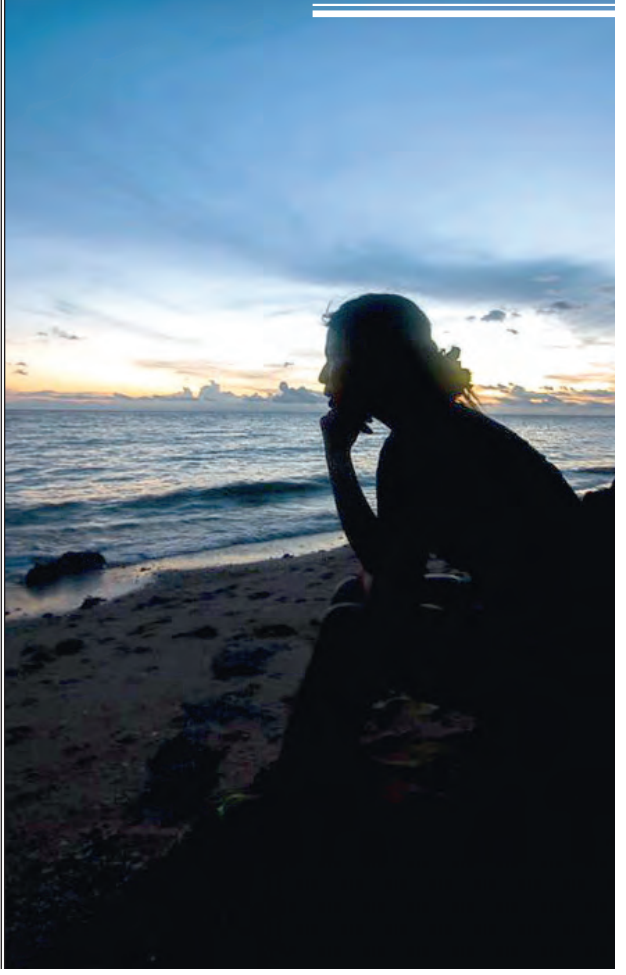
When we're young, we learned with strength
Some might learn love
Some might learn hatefulness
Yet, we all must bury them away;
As we have to stay in gray one day.

When we're young, we crowded together
Some might meet the optimistic soul
Some might meet the pessimistic soul
Yet, we all must forget that experience;
As we have to lay to rest.

When we're young, we did work for aliveness
Some might grab success with roughness
Some might snatch success with tenderness
Yet, we all must drop that success;
As we have to be swallowed by the earth.

When we're younkers, we gathered, we suffered,
We got together with each other,
Some wanna forget those ever and ever
Some wanna keep up those ever and ever
Yet, we all must snuff out those burning ardor;
As we are just passersby of the world.

By Khin Moh Moh Aung
Yadanabon University



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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

The dancer expresses the sadness at the funeral of a Buddhist monk

A ritual dirge played and sung at Buddhist monk funeral

The hearts of the audiences are touched by the slow sad songs and the performance of heart-felt lamentation

By:Tommy Pauk

AS we all know that a great majority of people living in Myanmar believe in Buddhism and practice the way what Buddha had taught us to attain Nirvana —the ultimate goal of Buddhism or the enlightenment. Basically Buddhist monks are the ones who teach laymen Buddhists about how to practice the essence and authenticity of Buddhism besides saying prayer and worship. In Myanmar, Buddhist doctrine is conserved by Buddhist monks indeed.

We, Myanmar Buddhists pay respect to those venerable and virtuous Buddhist monks who dedicate their lives to Buddhism by means of disseminating Buddha literature, teaching and method of Buddha way of meditation to their disciples and laymen. In Myanmar, Buddhist culture is dominating the vast majority of people since Buddhism is considered a major religion in it.

> The songs sung by the woman singer or dancer are composed in both Myanmar and Pali languages.

Among the Buddhist countries in the world, Myanmar Buddhists significantly and culturally celebrate the funeral of Buddhist monk with dirge and traditional funeral decoration as a final rite. Across the country, when a certain revered Buddhist monk passes away, the disciple and his followers arrange for the funeral for the departed one in a traditional way. The laymen pay last homage to the departed revered Buddhist abbot by singing dirge around his remains. In other words, the laymen sing funeral song or dirge extolling the virtues of the departed monk. The song consists of the words of praises and honor of the departed monk. In addition, his efforts in propagating Buddhism during his monkhood are described in the song.

The song is played by Myanmar musical instruments or Myanmar orchestra. The traditionally-decorated casket of the departed Buddhist monk is placed in the pandal for the laymen and his fellow monks to pay final homage. The disciples or laymen in the locality pay homage to his remains and express sad feelings on the demise of the revered Buddhist monk. Significantly, as a ritual dirge, the laymen play and sing in order to show their deep sadness on the departed monk. The woman singer wearing in theatrical costumes sings a slow sad song or a piece of music while the funeral ceremony is in progress.

Depending on the disciples wish and desire, the remains of the departed Buddhist monk or the ashes of the departed Buddhist monk are kept in the decorative casket in the traditionally-built pandal for a couple of months or a few months. When the final rite is held, the ritual dirge is also played and performed by the woman professional singers and dancers of Myanmar. People nearby the village or town come to this occasion to watch and listen to the ritual dirge of the funeral ceremony of a revered Buddhist monk or abbot. The songs sung by the woman singer or dancer are composed in both Myanmar and Pali languages. The singer not only sings melancholic songs but also performs the heart- felt facial lamentation in proximity to the remains of the revered Buddhist monk which are placed in the traditionally made decorative- emerald- cradle inside the pandal.

While playing and singing dirge, the woman singer gently and mournfully rocks the traditionally made decorative-emerald -cradle in which the remains of the revered Buddhist monk are laid. The sad song or dirge and the heart-felt facial lamentation of the performance of the woman singer dressed in Myanmar theatrical costumes touch the captive audience as well as the disciples. Besides, she extols the departed Buddhist monk's dedication to Buddhism, virtues and rectitude. Thus, audience could learn the career and dignity of the passed-away-monk and they pay homage to the remains of the Sayardaw (the abbot).

Actually, it is not easy for singers to sing this kind of funeral song because it has to be sung with emotion, clarity of Pali words (of an oriental language) and singing skill. The woman singers or dancers who specialized and learned this dirge or funeral song for the departed Buddhist monk can sing Aye-Yint- Kyuu -song (Myanmar term) and can act or perform systematically and properly indeed. That's why all the Myanmar traditional dancers cannot sing and perform at the funeral of Buddhist monk. Furthermore, it is an interesting and valuable traditional art of performance in Myanmar used for the last funeral rite of revered Sayadaws (Revered Buddhist Monks).This sort of ceremony is held in the small towns and in some rural areas whenever the revered Buddhist monk passes away. In the big cities, it can be observed rarely. The local laymen and disciples conduct the funeral and the ritual dirge is played with Myanmar musical instruments and sung by the skilful traditional woman dancer or woman singer. Hopefully, this article can fulfill the knowledge of a part of Buddhist culture with traditional rites for foreigners those who study Myanmar Buddhist Culture and Traditional Rites in Myanmar!

Credit; *Original Photographer and the traditional dancer Sa-Ga-War-Myay Daw Ohnmar Khin (ဝတ်ားဝါမြေဦးမွှာခင်)*

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Tradition of Salt Processing at ancient Pyu Kingdom

By: Kaung Si Thu

HANLIN Old City, situated in WatLat Township, Sagaing Region is one of the three Pyu Old Cities recognized as The World Heritage by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which is also an archeological site with many references of Pyu Era.

Archaeologist Taw Sein Kho and his group conducted initial excavations in Hanlin old city in February 1905. Since Mr Charles Durai have also made some excavations in Hanlin 1929 and 1930.

Archeological students from the Yangon University, on their excursion to Hanlin, got a chance to do excavation in old Pyu city and tradition of making home-made salt products from continental salt flats.

Hanlin, which is not located near any seas, produce table salt by allowing the salt-water, containing solution of Sodium Chloride, from natural springs and wells, pass through salt flats. Producing table salt from salt flats around Hanlin region is known to be a tradition since the existence of Pyu people and still pursing as a business until today.

Salt flats are taking place from 10000 feet south to north and 3500 feet east to west in Hanlin region. These salt flats are collected in order to produce table salt with methods of drying, evaporating and draining.

Soils from salt field are formed as Kar mound, with straws and mud, to extract salt water. Kar mound is composed of soils accumulated over 2 feet and the insides are shaped like pans while the bottom is attached with beak of bamboo.

After harrowing until the soil is smooth, the salt land is closed in four sides where salty water is filled in through drain after all exit is blocked. Water from salt land gradually dries up from the heat of the sun. This method of drying salt land is called sowing salt land.

When the water is dried, the salt soil is collected by rake and accumulated to harrow and put more salt water to dry under the sun. In this way, salt lands are sowed 4 to 5 times throughout salt season.

Salt can also be produced by boilng salt water in a square-shaped zinc pan with a length of 8 feet, width of 4 feet and dept of 4 feet without line.

In the ancient times, salt is made by a Hanlin's regional clay pots called Labon pots. Professor U Myint Aung once mentioned in his paper that Labon pots are used in salt making in Hanlin region until Myanmar Calendar 1257, according to Sayadaw U Narga's signature.

Generally in the months of Nataw and Pyatho (in December and January), salt spreads are sowed and brine are collected after a month to make salt. Even though salt making period is considered to be four months from Pyatho till Tagu, it can extend up to Kason and Nayon depending on the weather.

Locals from Hanlin have been making this continental salt business since many years ago.

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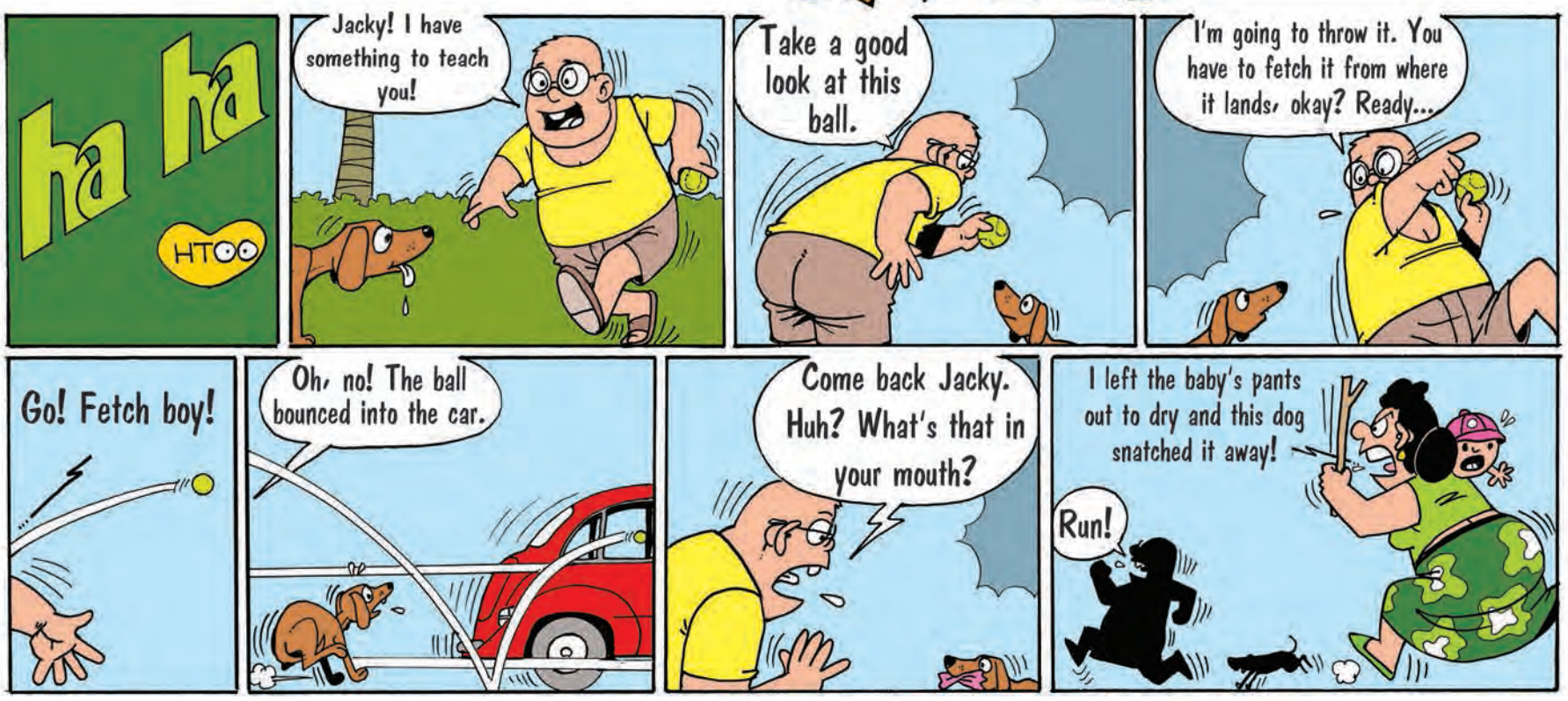
SUNDAY COMICS



Let's view the world from every perspective

By May Thu Htay
2nd year Honours Student, English Specialization, University of Yangon

EVERY human in every community has their preferences and they tend to live in this world by following their priorities. Some who has the love for popularity pursues popularity. Material pleasure is given precedence over the other things for someone who has the love for money. Some who place great value on integrity will definitely cherish righteousness and honesty. In a similar way, the teachers who are assigned to nurture, teach lessons to the students to become moral and intellectual and the officers under Ministry of Education may assume that the educational sector is the crucial one. The doctors who have to take care of the health of all humans may think that their role is paramount. Having own value and self –confident in our jobs is good. Nevertheless, if these people become extreme and oblivious to the other values and careers, then they are confined in their own perspectives.

For instance, the one who regards money as the power in the world will definitely assess everyone and everything with this. Concerning career, nowadays the youth who are the progeny of the one-sided parents have to go through the indecisions about their professions as typical Myanmar parents' dream is to be a doctor, a tutor, a teacher for girls, and to be an engineer, an army officer, a pilot for boys.

It is natural that everyone has ego, considering that their values are more paramount than others and their professions play more important role than others. Nevertheless, it is undeniable that the world is built upon various sectors and people with different tastes, passions and personalities. Only having doctors, engineers, soldiers, pilots, tutors, teachers, businessmen are not sufficient to shape the beautiful world. The world requires farming specialists, technicians, politicians, linguists, archaeologists, historians, tour guides, researchers etc. Even these jobs plumbers, cleaners, greengrocers, guards which are appraised as the disgraceful jobs by the community are needed for the world. If the community is filled with one type of people who are money-oriented, in other words who has no heart to share but only to hoard their property, knowledge, just imagine how the world will be like.Thus, we must also appreciate sorts of people like altruists who will assist the impoverished and disabled, and a phile of one's own culture or country who will sustain the cultures in this world.

In my opinion, this is the right time to try to see the world from every perspective and to remove the deep-rooted lopsided perspective from our mind. Definitely, lopsided views can only lead the community to the downside. If parents only prioritize one perspective and reject their children's desires to be authors, technicians, entrepreneurs and force the children to be doctors, engineers under compulsion, as a consequence, the future of the youth will be ruined as well as the loss of the precious human resources in the respective work areas. If that parents view the world from every perspective, they will clearly realize that how their children's desire are precious to the community . Once rich and materialistic people start to accept the role of philanthropy, this aspect of mind will automatically turn them into philanthropist, who is wealthy, famous and sympathetic.

To sum up, what I would like to point out is the world, every society cannot be prosperous by only developing the educational sector, the economic sector and by only ranking the businessmen, doctors, the wealthy highly. If we try to see the world from every perspective, we will notice the importance of every human, every role regardless of the rank, the value. I sincerely believe that our world will be more beautiful if we open our views and perspectives.

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In the past , around Hanlin region, Hanlin, Tha Khwa Taw and Lain Pin villages did salt business widely but now due to the escalation of land price, changes of climates and high expenses of production cost, only Tha Kwa Taw village continue to produce the most. Salt filtering, making salt with zinc pans can be observed in Hanlin village tract during salt making period.

Even though solid references for Pyu nationalities making salt is still not found in Hanlin region where Pyu culture is rich, it can still be assumed that Pyu people produced and consumed salt in a particular way.

Professor U Myint Aung denied the fact that Hanlin's salt processing business descended from Mon people, who were from the sea and experienced in salt processing, came to Pyu region and started processing salt. Due to references from excavating Hanlin old city, there have been no evidence that Pyu and Mon people had any relation between 2 and 9 AD. But Professor considered that after Pyu era, Mon and Burmese had relations around Shwe Bo and terms from salt business was adapted and used from then.

In any case, any visitors are able to see Pyu heritage and distinctive continental salt processing culture when visiting Hanlin region and Pyu Cultural site. *Translated by HYME*

Apology

AN essay on Page 7 of the Sunday Special section of the 6 January, 2019 edition of *the Global New Light of Myanmar* contained an error. The writer of the essay with the headline "The Moon and Rose" should read Laura Htet. *The Global New Light of Myanmar* apologizes for the error. – Ed

The Beautiful Dawei

By Kurt Knowles Carter
(Han Zaw Lwin)
First Year (English)
Dawei University

THERE is no one in the world who does not love and adore the beauty. Of these, the natural beauty is the most beautiful one than that of others.The nature also displays many beautiful things. Every place possesses its own beauty. Different countries have different culture and ethnic groups. As such kinds of things are around us,we have to explore more and more. One should know and understand about another culture. Our country called the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, is one of the members of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). There are 135 kinds of ethnic groups in our country. Among them, the main ethnic groups are Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan. Each group has its language respectively. And there are seven regions and seven states. The regions are Yangon, Bago, Ayeyarwady, Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing and Taninthayi. And then, the states are Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan. The capital of our country is Nay Pyi Taw and it is located in Mandalay Region. Yangon is the commercial city and it is the most developed and modernest city in Myanmar. There are many beautiful and pleasant beaches such as Chaungtha, Ngapali, Maungmagan, Ngwesaung, etc in our country. Besides, we can visit many pagodas.The Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon is the most famous pagoda in our country. Although there are many beautiful places in our country, Dawei is the best place not only for recreation but also to visit.

Dawei is a city in south-eastern Myanmar and is the capital of the Tarinthayi Region. It has plenty of rains during the rainy season. Its population is about 125,239 according to the 2014 census. Not only the Dawei locals but also other ethnic groups such as Kayins, Mons and Bamars are residing in Dawei. People in Dawei say the Dawei dialects. We can see the rubber plantation projects,betel plants, palm trees and fishery projects in Dawei. Dawei is surrounded by mountains and so, it is very beautiful. Travellers tried to visit Dawei as its transportation was not as good as today years before. However, nowadays, the transportation of Dawei is so smooth that it takes 14 hours to visit. We can visit Dawei by various winds of "express cars" and planes. Electricity can be available within 24 hours. There are proficiency courses in Dawei and these are beneficial for students. When you visit Dawei, you should visit the famous 9 pagodas called Shin-Koe-Shin Pagodas: three pagodas on the mountains, named. Shin-Hsan-Daw (Kaleinaung), Shin-Maw-Taung and Shin-Taung-Pone, three pagodas in the village,named Shin-Det-Wel, Shin-Zalun and Shin-Tauk-Htein,and three pagodas in downtown Dawei, named Shin-Pin-Ka-Yu, Shin-Oat-Aww and Shin-Mote-Htee.

After that, it is known that there are over hundred kinds of beaches in Dawei. Among them, the Ma-Yin-Gyi Beach is near the Dawei Deepsea Project. We can visit the Maungmagan Beach within an hour from Dawei. It has been famous years before. Afterwards, we can see many waterfalls in Dawei. All the beaches and waterfalls are pleasant, beautiful and we can get fresh air. As most people in Dawei are Buddhists, they hold the 28-Buddha Images Festival and the Alms-bowl (Tha-beik) Floating Festival. Moreover, Dawei is full of multi-religions like the Hindu Temples, Mosques and Churches. When I was about five years old, my mother was promoted as a lecturer and join the Dawei University. After spending two years in Dawei, my mother was assigned to join Yangon again. In 2015, I heard the news that my mother got her promotion as a professor of Dawei University unexpectedly. Now, I passed the 2018 matriculation examination and so, I have got the chance to attend the English Major Class at Dawei University. Dawei is a victory land for me. To sun up, I would live to urge all of you to visit the beautiful Dawei when you are free. Traditional foods will be waiting for you attractively. Honouring the beauty of Dawei by writing this article. I love Dawei so much!

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