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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 20 January 2019

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker attends 2019 China-Myanmar New Year Spring Festival

PYITHU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein attended the 2019 China-Myanmar New Year Spring Festival held in Sky Net Studio hall in the Shwe Htut Tin Grounds in Tamway Township, yesterday evening in Yangon.

The event was also attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and wife, H.E. Zhao Jin, Member of Standing Committee and Director of the Publicity Department of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee

of People's Republic of China, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and wife, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Hluttaw representatives, Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and wife, departmental officials and invited guests.

First People's Republic of China Party Standing Committee member and Director of the Publicity Department of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee H.E. Zhao Jin delivered a speech.

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Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and dignitaries (Upper) attend the 2019 China-Myanmar New Year Spring Festival in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker attends 2019 China-Myanmar ...



Director of Publicity Department of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee Zhao Jin delivers the speech at the 2019 China-Myanmar New Year Spring Festival. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture delivers the speech at the 2019 China-Myanmar New Year Spring Festival in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Next Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko delivered a speech followed by speeches and remarks by Ministry of Information Myanmar Radio and Television Director General U Myint Htway, Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and Director of the Publicity Department of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee.

Afterwards Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and wife, People's Republic

of China Party Standing Committee member and Director of the Publicity Department of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee H.E. Zhao Jin and officials observed the performance of China-Myanmar traditional songs and dances.

The 2019 China-Myanmar New Year Spring Festival is jointly organized by China State Council Publicity Office, Embassy of China to Myanmar, Yunnan Province government from the China side and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture from the Myanmar side it is learnt. — MNA ■

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko receives Head of Publicity Department of Yunnan Province

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko received Mr. Zhao Jin, Member of the Standing Committee and Director of the Publicity Department of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee of People's Republic of China at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture (Yangon Office) yesterday morning.

At the meeting, matters relating to culture and religion were discussed. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Kyi Min and officials from the People's Republic of China embassy. Later in the afternoon, Union Minister

Thura U Aung Ko paid respects to Ovadacariya (Patron) Sayadaws, assistants and Sanghas at the 71st Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kawvida Selection examinations. The examinations were being held from 28 December 2018 to 29 January 2019, with 228 Sanghas sitting for the oral recitation examination. The examinations were overseen by 11 Ovadacariya Sayadaws, 124 assistant Sayadaws and 66 officials from the Department of Religious Affairs. After observing the examinations, the Union Minister provided cash donations to Ovadacariya Sayadaws and assistant Sayadaws.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko receives Standing Committee member and Director of the Publicity Department of Yunnan Provincial Party Committee Zhao Jin yesterday in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

65th Myanmar Medical Conference kicks off in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 65th Myanmar Medical Conference began at the Myanmar Medical Association-MMA in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with an opening address by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe has called on the MMA for promoting its activities joining hands with related associations.

In addition to increasing cooperation among members, groups and sub-groups, the association needs to increase connections and cooperation with related medical associations, such as the Myanmar Dental Association, Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association, Myanmar Pharmacist Association, and Myanmar Medical Technologist Association, said the Union Minister.

MMA had been operating for seventy years, from its founding

in 1949, and credited its fine work to the unity of its members. The association has 42 groups, which include general practitioners, as well as specialists, and has branches in states and regions.

He also pledged that the ministry will increase cooperation

with the Myanmar Medical Association so that Myanmar physicians can conduct workshops, medical congresses and discussions with an aim of increasing the level of health care service capacities of the physicians.

He also stressed the need

to use modern information and communication technologies for physicians in remote areas so that they can continue life-long learning and studying.

As the MMA is cooperating with the World Medical Association to ensure life-long contin-

uous learning and studying, the ministry will work together with the MMA for physicians from the ministry to participate in this learning and studying.

Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) President Prof. Dr. Rai Mra explained about the construction of the MMA (Nay Pyi Taw) Building, preparation works for the conference, the status of cooperating with the ministry in providing health care services in Rakhine State based upon medical ethics, and future works. Afterwards Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe and MMA President Prof. Dr. Rai Mra formally opened the exhibits of the ministry, private pharmaceutical and medical equipment.

The 65th Myanmar Medical Conference will continue until 22 January in MMA (Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe formally opens the 65th Myanmar Medical Conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint inspects Phakant Township IPRD office, library

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr. Pe Myint inspected the Phakant Township Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) office and library yesterday afternoon.

The Union Minister and party, consisting of Directors General U Ye Naing and U Aung Myo Myint, inspected the museum, library and children's reading room in the IPRD office, and met with officials and staff of the

office. The Union Minister remarked on fulfilling the people's rights to receive news and for providing regional news, organizing effective reading circles in cooperation with writers and authors in the township, and performing maintenance and repair work on office buildings.

Afterwards, matters raised by the office personnel were coordinated. — District IPRD ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint meets with officials at Phakant Township's Information and Public Relations Department yesterday. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD**

MES holds annual meeting, elects new members for central committee

UNION MINISTER for Construction U Han Zaw attended the Myanmar Engineering Society (MES) annual meeting and general election held at MES Function Hall in Yangon, Hline Township, yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Yangon Region Chief Minister delivered his greetings, followed by a speech by Union Minister U Han Zaw.

Union Minister U Han Zaw expressed his delight for the establishment of MES, which the country can rely upon during this time when the country's development is gaining increasing momentum.

Since MES was established on 23 December 1995, the successive central committees have conducted their works with force and unity to achieve success, and are urged to maintain these superior results.

The present central committee members, and new central committee members who are to be elected, are required to retain these successes and continue the good works to benefit

the country and society, said the Union Minister.

Also, MES President U Aung Myint explained about the works, duties and responsibilities of MES and took commemorative photographs.

After the event, the Union Minister observed the MES new youth engineer committee's "Process & Production Show 2019" exhibits.

Later in the afternoon, the Union Minister inspected the major renovation of the National Library at the corner of Merchant Street and 32 Street in Yangon, performed by Special Building Group 2, where officials explained about the status of the construction. The Union Minister commented on increasing the quality of the work and urged the keeping of proper work records. — MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*



Union Minister U Han Zaw inspects the construction of a four-story ward at South Okkalapa Women and Children Hospital. **PHOTO: MNA**

Technological University (Thanlyin) gets new hostel



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new hostel for students of the Technological University (Thanlyin) yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A ceremony to transfer a new hostel building for students, donated and built by Mother Construction Co., Ltd., was held at Yangon Region, Thanlyin Township, Technological University (Thanlyin) yesterday morning.

First Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new hostel for students.

Also, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein delivered a speech, followed by the Mother Construction Co. director transferring hostel building documents to officials.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi spoke of his appreciation for the donation and construction of the hostel for students, which includes materials for students staying in the hostel. Although the ministry wishes to construct such hos-

tels with funds allocated by the government, the work can only proceed according to priorities.

The ministry is elevating the quality of the education sector as it continues issuing certificates and degrees, and is encouraging conducting courses, granting degrees and certificates that are appropriate for the region's requirements. In doing this, it is important for teachers to conduct degree courses that will produce graduates who can perform real life work that is relevant and appropriate to the region.

Teachers also need to foster research, quality teaching and conduct project-based learning so students acquire those abilities that are appropriate to real life situations. Teachers further need to be qualified and capable to conduct applied research that supports the requirements of the region.

In addition to conducting such research, efforts must be made toward producing better research papers based on research findings, discussions and suggestions. Only when teaching and learning is close to real life situations can qualified graduate students be produced. For this to happen, education must be taught at a high level, while the ministry continues cooperating with state and region governments and the people toward achieving this, said the Union Minister. The Union Minister then presented a certificate of honor to the Mother Construction Co. Ltd. managing director.

Later the Union Minister, Chief Minister and officials met with the Rector, Pro-Rector, Professors (Heads of Department), teachers and students of Technological University (Thanlyin). — MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

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Union Minister for Commerce inspects border check points, trading in Muse, Shan State (North)

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint inspected the Traffic of Kyin San Kyaw temporary gate in Muse Town, Shan State (North) and U Moe Set's cattle breeding farm for export at Kyin San Kyaw Kyauktaing field yesterday afternoon. Later in the evening, Union Minister Dr. Than Myint inspected the

Mann Wein, Nandaw and Sin-byushin gates in Muse, where Myanmar-China trade is conducted, and instructed officials on work arrangements to ease and speed the trading between the two countries, as well as to prevent traffic congestion by trucks. Also, at the under-construction Ho Hsaung Gate, a

new Myanmar-China trade gate, the New Star Light Company managing director briefed the Union Minister on the status of constructing the new trade gate, and the Union Minister urged on speeding up works so the gates could be opened as soon as possible.

Afterwards, the Union Min-

ister went to the Information Centre meeting hall at Mingala Muse Walking Market where the New Star Light Company Managing Director briefed the Union Minister on the status of constructing a new trade gate, and Mingala Muse Walking Market.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Kachin State Chief Minister, Dy Minister for Information inspect rehearsal for Children's Literature Festival



Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung and Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun enjoy dress rehearsal of students for opening ceremony of the Children's Literature Festival in Myitkyina. **PHOTO: MNA**



Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung and Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun inspected the Children's Literature Festival, Children's Literature Exhibition and Book

Sales opening ceremony dress rehearsal at Myitkyina University convocation hall yesterday morning.

State Chief Minister and Deputy Minister inspected the

practice sessions of the band, pom pom troupe, singing of songs and dances by students.

The Children's Literature Festival and Book Sales (Myitkyina) is jointly organized by

Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and Kachin State government and will be held for three days from 20 to 22 January. — MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Artist Lwin Lwin Kyaw exhibits his works at Mandalay Hill Art Gallery

ARTIST Lwin Lwin Kyaw is showing selected works in a solo exhibition at the Mandalay Hill Art Gallery in Mandalay.

The art exhibition, featuring 72 watercolour paintings, began on 19 January and will continue until 21 January at the gallery, located at the corner of 24th and 80th street in Aungmyethazan Township.

Artist Lwin Lwin Kyaw said he created the paintings during

his visit to destinations across Mandalay, after reading a history book. The subject matters of the paintings mainly include natural landscapes, culture, traditions and the lifestyles of people in Mandalay.

On the first day, the exhibition was crowded with artists and art enthusiasts.—Kyaw Soe Oo (Mandalay) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



A visitor looks at the paintings created by Artist Lwin Lwin Kyaw. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE OO**

Elderly woman injured in kitchen fire in Paung Township

A 70-year-old woman was injured in a kitchen fire that broke out in Paung Township, Mon State, early morning on Sunday.

Around 2 am on 19 January, the fire reportedly began in the kitchen of the wooden house,

owned by Daw Sein living in Zetawon Ward in Mottama Village-tract. The fire largely destroyed the home. Due to the accident, the 70-year-old woman was left injured and is now receiving medical treatment

at Mottama station. The fire caused losses of some K150,000, according to the Township Fire Services Department.

With the assistance of villagers, firefighters extinguished the flames within thirty minutes

after arriving on the scene.

Charges have been filed against the homeowner, charging her with negligence.—Ko Hein (Paung) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Trade with Bangladesh declines 66% in first two months of 2018-19 FY

MYANMAR-Bangladesh trade totalled US\$14.352 million in the first two months of fiscal year 2018-2019, registering a decline of \$28.5 million, or 66.5 per cent, as against the corresponding period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce's monthly report.

The total bilateral trade figures for October and November includes \$9.9 million in exports and \$4.5 million in imports. When compared with this time last year, the current export value decreased by \$29.7 million, however, the value of bilateral imports increased slightly, by almost \$1.3 million.

Usually, Myanmar's exports exceed imports in bilateral trade with Bangladesh, conducted by sea or land. In bilateral border



Workers carrying sacks of rice in Maungdaw Trade Zone, Maungdaw. PHOTO: AUNG YE THWINKO MIN

trade, goods move mainly through the Sittway and Maung-

taw trade stations.

In border trade, marketable

products include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and

fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, and beverages.

During the 2018 six-month mini budget period (April-September), the country's total trade with Bangladesh reached nearly \$243 million, decreasing by \$19.8 million against the total value of \$63.8 million from this time last 2017-2018 FY.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, this FY saw no new investments from Bangladesh. Last FY, Myanmar received \$1.5 million in investments from Bangladesh.—Khine Khant ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Developers plan Kunlong-Chinshwehaw border economic zone

By Aye Yamon

THE first Myanmar-China economic zone is expected to be developed on 6,000 acres along the Kunlong-Chinshwehaw border area, according to Chitkyiye Co.

Administrative and legal processes are now being reviewed to put in place the special economic zone, under either the Myanmar Investment Law or Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law, according to the company. Regarding the project, U Kyaw Dwon, consultant for Chitkyiye Co, said, "Investment has two parts—using our own capital and foreign investment. Developers can implement the project with their own money. There will be an inflow of foreign investments when it becomes a zone, such as in Thilawa.

Developers need to take out loans in accordance with the rules and regulations of the

Central Bank."

Land plays a crucial role in implementing economic zone projects, so cooperation will be ensured with ethnic entrepreneurs in developing the economic zones. At present, the government is creating the Dawei, Kyaukpyu and Thilawa special economic zones. Among them, the Thilawa SEZ is one of the most successful economic zones in Myanmar. "I cannot say exactly when it will start. The first priority is Kunlong-Chinshwehaw. Bhamo in Kachin State will stand at second place," said U Kyaw Dwon. "It is our proposal.

As all we know, we cannot complete the acquisition of land space in an extreme manner. We will have to pass the stages, such as the permits from authorities and the committee and Form-105, as we need to collect the ownership documents according

to the Land Law. Then, we need to go to the central body. We expect to get roughly 6,000 acres for the projects. We will carry out step-by-step implementation, in accordance with the law in Myanmar."

According to the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law, the SEZ may be established by the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw with the agreement of state/region governments, respective state/region working committees and central committees.

In May 2017 Myanmar and China signed a memorandum of understanding on the set-up of border economic cooperation zones. "The other side has already developed. We are doing the step-by-step implementation, in accord with the law as our leaders have instructed," U Kyaw Dwon added.

At the 23rd meeting between the government and private busi-

nesspersons on 12 January, Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, said the ministry will invite developers to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) in the project to carry out border trade zones between Myanmar and China. "Basically, an agreement on the location has been reached. Both sides will implement the project under their own system and have agreed to set up a better link. We have a plan to implement it in four regions, such as in Kanpaiktee, Muse and Kyinsankyawt.

Soon, we will invite local and joint-ventured companies to submit the EOI for it. We will carry out the projects as quickly as possible," said Dr. Than Myint.

The Union government founded a central committee to put in place the Myanmar-China border economic cooperation zones on 30 April, 2018. ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Exports of animal products up \$180 mln in Q1

MYANMAR'S exports of animal products between 1 October and 11 January reached US\$196 million, which was an increase in value of \$180 million from the corresponding period in fiscal year 2017-2018, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

During this period, private sector exports of animal products stood at \$195.8 million, whereas public sector exports were valued at \$0.238 million. Until 28 December, there were no public sector exports of animal products. Myanmar exports animal products chiefly to China, India and Thailand. During the three and a half months of 2018-2019 FY, the country earned over \$4 billion from the export of seven major groups of products, including agricultural, animal, forest and marine products, minerals, manufactured goods, and other marketable products.

According to the ministry, the country exported animal products worth \$90.7 million in the 2011-2012 FY, \$32.9 million in the 2012-2013 FY, \$15.4 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$8.3 million in 2014-2015 FY, \$8 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$10.6 million in the 2016-2017 FY, and \$60.9 million in the 2017-2018 FY. During the 2018 mini budget, the country exported animal products reaching \$178 million, with \$2.9 million from the public sector and \$175.4 million from the private sector.—Swe Nyein ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Kanpaiktee border sees increase in export of tissue culture bananas

KANPAIKTEE, a border checkpoint between Myanmar and China, has seen an increase in both the volume and value of exports of tissue culture bananas since the 2015-2016 fiscal year, according to a trade report issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

The ministry's export data showed that the country exported nearly 266,370 tons of tissue culture bananas to China via Kanpaiktee in the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September). The country started

exporting tissue culture banana to China through the Kanpaiktee border gate in the 2010-2011 Financial Year, when it exported 51,400 tons with a value of US\$5.845 million. The figure decreased to 25,880 tons, worth \$3.146 million, in the 2011-2012 FY and 5,129 tons, worth \$0.840 million, in the 2012-2013 FY. Exports increased to 26,405 tons, worth \$4.048 million, in the 2013-2014 FY, and 33,770 tons, worth \$4.98 million, in the 2014-2015 FY.

The Kanpaiktee border saw

a significant increase in export of tissue culture bananas in the 2015-2016 FY, when 81,340 tons of bananas with a value of \$25.729 million were sent to neighbouring China. Thereafter, exports increased continuously to reach 176,570 tons in the 2016-2017 FY and 266,450 tons in the 2017-2018 FY. The revenue authorities earned over K 1.4 million by levying two-per-cent withholding tax on the export of tissue culture bananas in the 2016-2017 FY and K 2.1 billion in the next FY. Dur-

ing the 2018 mini-budget period, the government collected K 3 billion in withholding tax from exports of the commodity.

Tissue culture bananas are mostly cultivated in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, and other townships of Kachin State, where there are more than 60,000 acres of plantations. There are over 20 companies which export tissue culture banana produced in Myitkyina and Waingmaw.—Shwe Khine (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin) ■

Deputy Minister inspects transmission station, sub-printing house in Myitkyina

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun inspected the television transmission station and sub-printing house in Myitkyina yesterday afternoon.

Firstly, transmission station State Chief Engineer U Aung Kyaw Zin reported on the works of the station and the Deputy Minister coordinated with requirements. The Deputy Minister then inspected the transmission status and met

the staffs cordially.

Next, the Deputy Minister arrived at the sub-printing house where officer in charge U Kyaw Htet explained about distribution of state-owned newspapers, printing and distribution of a supplement page in ethnic Kachin language. Afterwards, the Deputy Minister inspected the sub-printing house and met cordially with the staff.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspects the transmission station in Myitkyina yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Children's Literature Festival to be held on 20-22 Jan in Myitkyina



The Children's Literature Festival is ready to welcome at the convocation hall of the Myitkyina University in Myitkyina. **PHOTO: THET NAING LIN**

WITH the intention of nurturing children and instilling in them the love of reading, the Children's Literature Festival, will be held from 20 to 22 January at the convocation hall of the Myitkyina University in Myitkyina,

Kachin State.

The Children's Literature Festival is jointly organised by the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education and the Kachin State Government.

During the festival, many

activities such as a story-telling competition, poem-reciting competitions, a painting competition, literature talks, talk shows, debates, sports activities and entertainment programmes will be included.

Colourful educational booths will also be organised by state high schools in Myitkyina.

Other interesting activities such as elephant dancing and puppet shows will be presented.

Book stalls for book lovers will be opened at the festival, said an official.

Likewise, several Children's Literature festivals have been successfully held in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Mawlamyint, Taunggyi, Monywa, Patheingyi and Yangon.—Aung Min Han ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Mandalay Yadanar Mall International Gems, Jewelry Fair 2019 concludes

THE 1st Internal Gems and Jewelry Fair 2019 held at Yadanabon Super Center in Myanmar concluded yesterday with People's Republic of China Guangzhou Province Jade and Jewelry Association Deputy Chairman in attendance.

At the event the Deputy Chairman said the various Myanmar jades and jewelry were high in quality but more need to be done on the workmanship

part and hoped and expected improvement and development in Myanmar gem and jewelry sector.

Of about 10,000 gem merchants invited to the event, over 8,000 came and made purchases on the first day alone. The total attendance during the five-day event exceeded 10,000 according to Mandalay Yadanar Mall Gems Entrepreneurs Development Committee Sec-

retary U Thein Win.

In the closing ceremony, those who cooperated for the successfully holding of the fair were presented with certificates of honors and those who won in the finished jewelry competition were also presented with prizes.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing house) ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Spokesman for Office of the President hosts tea party, gives briefing on effective counter-insurgency operations

DIRECTOR-General U Zaw Htay, spokesperson for the Office of the President, hosted a tea party for reporters yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking at the meeting at the Presidential Palace, U Zaw Htay said the government has a responsibility to protect the lives and property of the people and defend the sovereignty of the country. He noted that recent attacks by AA insurgents on border guard police outposts have very much harmed the national reconciliation and peacemaking efforts being strenuously conducted by the Union Government.

The Myanmar Police Force has a responsibility for ensuring community peace and the rule of law, while the Tatmadaw has a responsibility for combatting insurgencies, he added.

The Union Government has ordered the Tatmadaw to

effectively carry out counter insurgency operations against AA insurgents, as the insurgents have harmed the lives, houses and properties of the people, and peace in the community, said U Zaw Htay. As a government, it will carry out effective counter-insurgency operations as part of efforts for cracking down on all activities which harm the community peace, the rule of law and safety of the people. Asked how the government would comment on a statement by a military officer at the Friday press conference by the Tatmadaw during which a reference had been made regarding instructions given by the State Counsellor at the coordination meeting on 7 January 2019 held at the Presidential Palace, U Zaw Htay replied that it was privileged information and he did not wish to give further comments.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Director-General U Zaw Htay, spokesperson for the Office of the President, hosts a tea party for reporters yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Corruption Prevention Units to be formed at ministries

Anti-Corruption Commission and the United Nations Development Programme-UNDP jointly conducted a workshop yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw in preparation for forming of Corruption Prevention Unit-CPU at 13 ministries.

The workshop was opened with opening remarks by U Aung Kyi, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, at Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The opening ceremony was attended by members of the commission, permanent secretaries, directors-general of the 13 ministries and staff of the office of the commission.

At the workshop, Secretary of the commission U San Win discussed the formation of CPUs



U Aung Kyi, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, delivers the opening speech at the workshop on formation of Corruption Prevention Units in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

from the legal point of view, U Zaw Win, member of the commission discussed the duties of

the CPUs, Daw Myat Myat Soe, member of the commission, presented the analytical review on

possible danger of corruption and Mr. Philliat Matsheza of UNDP discussed the prevention

of corruption.

Following the discussion, those attendees at the workshop raised questions, and the chairman, the secretary and members of the commission replied the queries.

The workshop decided three duties of the CPU: to scrutinize and explore corruptions, to solve the corruption problems, and to prevent the corruption by the civil servants.

The commission will give training to four to 10 staff from each ministry in the first week of February to work for the CPU. The workshop ended with concluding remarks by the chairman of the commission.

— MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Six injured in ARSA ambush on border police in Maungtaw



A vehicle carrying border guard police was ambushed by ARSA terrorists in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, on 16 January, and six police were injured in the attack.

The car carrying border guard police from No.2 Border Guard Police Headquarters was attacked by some 10 ARSA terrorists with small arms at about 1.05 pm on 16 January near a bridge in Watkyein Village in Maungtaw Township.

The injured were taken to the Tatmadaw Hospital in Buthidaung.

The Myanmar Police Force has reviewed the situation, noting that ARSA terrorists were active in the western part of the Mayu Mountain range, while AA insurgents were located in the eastern part of the mountain range dividing the areas. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Myanmar, Thailand officials discuss labour issues in Nay Pyi Taw



Labour affairs experts from Myanmar and Thailand hold the meeting on 18 and 19 January in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

LABOUR affairs experts from Myanmar and Thailand held meetings on 18 and 19 January at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, with a total of 35 delegates from two sides in attendance.

U Win Shein, Director-General of Department of Labour, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, led the 17 Myanmar labour affairs delegation members, who are members of Foreign Employment Supervisory Committee consisting of representatives from Consular and Legal Affairs Department, National Registration and Citizenship Department, Special Branch, Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force, Myanmar Embassy attaché and a labour Attaché.

18 delegation members from Thailand were led by Mrs. Petcharat Sinau, Director-General of Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to MoU on officially sending Myanmar workers to Thailand, unofficial arrival of Myanmar workers in Thailand, the rights and provision of care for Myanmar workers arriving in Thailand, Myanmar marine workers working at marine enterprises in Thailand, and sending Myanmar marine workers to Thailand through MoU agreement. They also discussed matters related to investigating and setting costs for the process of sending Myanmar marine workers to Thailand through MoU, amendment of employment agreement signed by Myanmar and Thailand which included investigation of crime records of the migrant workers, and preparation for selecting Myanmar workers by Thailand employers.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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Spirit of Unity is key to overcoming challenges

A GOVERNMENT elected by the people has a duty to carry out the equitable development of all regions in the country, in accordance with rules and regulations.

During its first year, the Union Government began the development of all sectors and reform works, in accord with the slogan “Time for Change,” and focused on creating jobs, improving road transport and making electricity more widely available.

In its second year, in accord with the slogan “Together with the People” the State’s affairs were conducted, along with the people. In the third year, as per the slogan “Collective Strength,” to ensure our collective existence and works were conducted with collective strength.

The incumbent government has marked nearly three years in office. Since taking office, the government has implemented the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan – MSDP (2018-2030), which was drawn up with the aim of establishing a peaceful and flourishing democratic country.

When transitioning from an old system to a new system, as well as from an old age to a new age, difficulties and challenges will be encountered. But the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union, and achieving internal peace, will be successful if the people cooperate and participate.

The government achieved success in some areas, while others did not live up to its expectations. The government has to see such weaknesses truthfully, and hope and expect that it discovers where it was weak and correct any weaknesses.

The strengths and weaknesses are not only a lesson, but also a good practice for the country.

The government is striving towards strengthening and developing the national interest with uninterrupted concentration and unyielding efforts, and starting from this New Year to forthcoming years, opportunities will be grasped in the political, economic and social sectors.

While striving to take hold of the opportunities, there will be many challenges. Challenges in the economy, challenges in development, and many more. To overcome these challenges, we must start well, in order to ensure that it ends well.

Our country is a developing country. For a developing country to face a huge challenge is not a small thing. But we can face it with the collective strength of the people.

Our country is a developing country. For a developing country to face a huge challenge is not a small thing. But we can face it with the collective strength of the people.

Exploring new paths for tourism development around Toungoo

By Ko Lwin (Swar)

WITH peaceful vibes and serene natural beauty, Myanmar has gorgeous lakes, forests, mountains and seas for retreat and relaxation with the rising number of globe trotters and local travelers, resulting in quest of new and fresh avenues for tourist destinations.

New avenues for tourism development

Born, hailed and raised in Toungoo, the writer of this article would like to cite new and fresh avenues such as that of Toungoo area, Taungdwingyi area, and Yedashe area for creating into new and fresh avenues for tourism development.

Sitting on a place (508) years ago, with magnificent and grandeur with many dynasties, the Toungoo area could be revamped with the remains of the ancient city along with modern design lifestyle for making fresh tourist destinations for developing tourism industry in the country.

Toungoo (also spelt Taunggoo) dynasty was the ruling dynasty of Burma (Myanmar) from the mid-16th century to 1752. Its early kings Tabinshwehti and Bayinnaung succeeded in reunifying the territories of the Bagan Kingdom for the first time since 1287.

Toungoo and its environ

Famous pagodas namely Shwesandaw Pagoda, Myasigone Pagoda, Laykyun Kandawgyi Pagoda, and many more historically listed pagodas are still there standing majestically, and adding grandeur with moats and ancient city walls making parallel magnificence with colonial architectures, along with the interesting and defiant “Myolaywun” fortress.

Moving towards east of Toungoo, the beautiful and serene Pathi Dam and Reservoir are located there, adding coolness of water flow amidst pure natural rock near the Pathi River Resort just (13) miles from Tandaung City of popular Kayin State.

Hiking uphill along the trails towards the top of a mountain, Naw Bu Baw Prayer Mountain is the one of the heart of Kayin State.

“Naw Bu Baw Pagoda” wel-



comed the travelers with her beauty amidst drifting and floating white clouds up and above, showing the beautiful colonial buildings spread across the area. The area embodied with the scenery of green tea plantation, tall rubber trees, pillars of teak trees, edible durian trees, mangosteen trees, pineapples shrubs, and the whole of the area enveloped and laced with the ethnic Kayin national culture and tradition.

Small bamboo houses

Indeed, there is a venue where only a small population inhabited, at the west of Ottwin Township; on the Yoma mountain crossing route namely Ottwin-Paung Khaung motor road leading to magnificent Khabaung Reservoir. Ottwin is the principal town and administrative seat of Ottwin Township, in the Taungoo District in the Bago Region of Myanmar.

The vast reservoir accommodates on her cool surface with small bamboo huts for locals engaging in fishery trade with eye catching attractions to the visitors in the panoramic backdrops of green and lush mountains.

The Ottwin-Pauk Khaung Yoma cross mountain motor road is leading the visitors to inner forest trails to 20-mile Elephant Sanctuary, the natural home to sacred elephants, working elephants, mother elephants, and baby elephants inhabiting in the forest.

Yangon to Ottwin, 166 miles (266 km) by car and Ottwin to Sein-Ye camp, 20 miles (32 km) by car along Bago Mountain crossing (forest road).

Japanese old military stronghold

Making into popular attraction, the Bago Region Government has planned to transform the environment and surrounding of Nanchon Village in Yedarshay Township into tourist spots with that of the existing old sites on Japanese military camps of Second World War, military bunkers, and military airfields to be showcased to the visitors with the intent to promote tourism industry. If succeeded, there would be plenty of job opportunities with most attractive destinations.

In the Toungoo Township, the Kyaytaw Area and Hnasaung Pyaung Area are intertwined with the area and surrounding of Nanchon Village where the Japanese camps had been in war operation, the past events and old scenarios were being remembered by the village old timers and elders.

Ancient Pyu City

Sites and avenues for promotion of tourism industry inside the Yaytarshay Township could be earmarked at Kyweyaing Pyin Village Tract, leading an off-track village trail namely Katpai Village where the Ancient Pyu City was

constructed with laterite, brick and stone about three miles long wall deep inside the thick forest.

Now, the Yaytarshay Kayin Chaung-Leik Tho Motor Road is

ground about the irregularities.

In the same area, the inter-district motor roads namely Loikaw-Toungoo linkage can arrive at Tandaung Township.

... Toungoo area could be revamped with the remains of the ancient city along with modern design lifestyle for making fresh tourist destinations ...

ready to connect with the Sittoung River Crossing Bridge (Kyweyaing Pyin), and that the forceful waterfalls coming in as divert flow from the eastern rocky mountain would be breathing venue for the visitors.

Waterfalls from divert flow

As the intended area for the tourist promotion destinations happened to be in the Forest Reserves, systematic management of the project is very much vital in the allocation of relaxation zones, hotels and restaurants, and retreats.

At the moment, some of the naive locals are taking the lands in their own hands and sold them out to other interested parties, and that the local people of the Kayinchaung Village asked and advised the responsible officials of the regional government to make field visits to check realities on the

Pho Kyar Elephant Camp

Another retreat is at 10-mile Pho Kyar Natural Elephant Camp on the Yoma mountain crossing motor road namely Targa-ra-Koe-pin route. Sinhakaung fork on a road from Tagara Township could reach Nay Pyi Taw – Yangon Express Way at the mile post of (174).

Getting to the elephant camp

The journey to Pho Kyar elephant camp was pleasant two hour drive on winding road weaving through hilly terrain. There is no public transportation for this journey so it needs to arrange well in advance that one can go on desired day.

As usual the more people sharing the cheaper it gets. The road condition has improved much during the last couple years and

4WD vehicles are no more necessity for the ride.

The camp was established in 2005 by the Myanmar Forest Department and has showcased with the elephant dances, the bathing of the elephants in the nearby creeks, and moreover, bumpy and joyful elephant rides could be realized on the uphill jungle trails.

Moreover, it is a paradise for bird watchers in the areas for those who are patience in taking photographs of the colorful flying creatures.

Moving westward from the elephant camp, the visitors can arrive at (13) mile post, deep inside two miles of the forest is the Thaung Chaung Elephant Camp with the scenic bird’s eye view of Thaung Chaung Creek flowing in twist and turn of smooth direction.

It is the home for the old and ageing elephants, mother elephants, carrier elephants, and baby elephants with the mahouts and elephant trainers, where their way of life and elephant related professions could be noted with awesome interest.

The writer of this article would like to conclude that these are the possible fresh avenues existed there waiting to be explored in transforming them into new and unblemished tourist attractions for the foreign visitors as well as the local travelers.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

72nd Anniversary (2019) Union Day National Objectives

1. All ethnic nationals to work with collective strength for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national unity, perpetuation of national sovereignty; and to work for preservation and protection of the above.
2. To strive for the emergence of a Constitution that is in alignment and harmony with the Democratic Federal Union.
3. To strive for the success of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panlong and thence till the success of the internal peace process.
4. All union nationals to cooperate and work in “Unity and Harmony” for rule of law and for the people to be secure and free from danger.
5. All union citizens to be able to enjoy good education and adequate health care protection.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 19th January, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 20th January, 2019: Rain will be isolated in Taninthayi Region and (Eastern and Southern) Shan State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Bago, Yangon and Ayeeyarwady Regions, Kachin, Northern Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of light rain in (Southern and Eastern) Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th January, 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th January, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th January, 2019: Generally fair weather.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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Global stocks surge on China-US trade breakthrough hopes

NEW YORK (United States)—Stock markets across the globe powered higher on Friday, buoyed by hopes of a breakthrough in efforts to defuse a US-China trade war. European and Asian indices bounced back strongly on Thursday after *The Wall Street Journal* reported Washington was considering lifting tariffs on China as officials look to hammer out a trade deal.

Wall Street joined the party later Friday, with major indices rising one per cent or more to close out the fourth day in a row of gains. The Dow has risen more than 13 per cent since 24 December.

Bloomberg also reported on Friday that Beijing had offered to eliminate its soaring trade surplus with the United States in five years.

"Global markets are enjoying an overwhelmingly bullish end to the week, with hopes of a potential breakthrough in US-China trade talks helping drive optimism," said Joshua Mahony, senior market analyst at traders IG.

There's "definitely rising optimism" of a trade deal, said LBBW's Karl Haeling.

"There are kind of smoke signals and when there is smoke there is fire," Haeling said. "It seems that Trump sees the weakening of the economy and the shutdown situation. He seems to be doing something to



Traders work at the offices of IG markets in the City of London on 16 January, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

get a win here."

However, there was also skepticism among some analysts, with the two sides still far apart on a number of issues, particularly regarding intellectual property.

On currency markets the pound edged lower, giving up earlier gains seen as dealers bet that Britain would not leave the European Union without a deal.

After her grand Brexit plan was soundly rebuffed by MPs this week, British Prime Minister Theresa May has called cross-party talks to put together a "Plan B" by Monday.

If that does not work, there is a growing expectation that the 29 March exit deadline will be pushed back to give May more time to reach another deal or possibly call another referendum.

Oil prices meanwhile rose on the China-US tariffs report and after OPEC said it had cut output in December before a new agreement to limit supply took effect.

Both main contracts are up around a fifth since the end of December, thanks to an agreement to cut output by OPEC and other key producers including Russia.

That followed almost three

months of losses that wiped around 40 per cent off prices amid concerns supply was running ahead of demand.

Shares of US companies with significant China operations gained, including Dow member Boeing, Caterpillar and Nike.

But Tesla Motors dived 13 per cent after the electric car maker announced plans to cut seven percent of its workforce and forecast lean profits.

Netflix fell 4.0 per cent as its profits topped analyst expectations but analysts worried that subscriber growth was slowing.

—AFP ■

EU sets out plans for 'limited' US trade deal

BRUSSELS (Belgium)—The EU pressed on Friday with plans to forge a trade deal with the US, part of an effort—backed by Germany—to avert a trade war with President Donald Trump. Negotiating a deal was the key to a transatlantic truce secured last year after the US slapped tariffs on steel and aluminium imports from the EU and others, alarming the world. The effort is also part of a strategy to stop Trump from slapping damaging duties on car imports from Europe, a danger that has especially unnerved Berlin.

"It is not a traditional (trade deal)... it is a limited but important proposal engaged on industrial goods tariffs only," EU trade commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom told reporters.

The process has got off to a rocky start, however, with the US side last week including agricultural products in their plans, which is an absolute no-go for the Europeans.

"In this mandate, we are not proposing any reduction of tariffs on agriculture. That area was left outside," Malmstrom insisted.

The 17-page proposal submitted by the US also included other demands that are unacceptable for the EU, including that Europe stop "manipulating" foreign exchange rates.

Given the split, the EU is entering the negotiations with trepidation, especially since the threat of auto duties is still very much alive in Washington.

The commission said it was open to slashing tariffs for US car imports as part of the deal, though Washington has proved reluctant, unwilling to expose its crucial small trucks market in return.

The commission handles trade negotiations for the EU's 28 member states and the plans must now be approved by the national governments before negotiations start with Washington. The deal attempt is widely understood to be pushed behind the scenes by Berlin, eager to shelter its auto giants from the wrath of Trump.

German Minister of Economics Peter Altmaier welcomed the deal and looked forward to talking "concretely" with the US. —AFP ■

Toyota drives in new Camry Hybrid at Rs 36.95 lakh

NEW DELHI—Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) on Friday launched a new version of Camry Hybrid at an introductory price of Rs 36.95 lakh (ex-showroom). The company, which is a joint venture between the Japanese auto major and Kirloskar group, assembles the vehicle at its Bangalore-based plant. "With the new generation Camry Hybrid, which is self charging electric vehicle, we are moving one step ahead towards cleaner and greener environment" TKM Managing Director Mazakazu Yoshimura told reporters here.

With changing market dynamics in terms of safety and emission norms, the auto industry in the country will have to come up with solutions that lead towards conservation of environ-

ment, he added.

"Globally, we have been the pioneers in hybrid technology and this has been an important focus for us in a market like India which is moving towards greener sustainable future," Yoshimura said. TKM Deputy Managing Director N Raja said the company would keep working to popularise hybrid vehicles in the country.

He, however, ruled out coming out with mass segment models with such hybrid technology in the near future. The new generation Camry Hybrid comes with a 2.5 litre petrol engine mated with an electric motor delivering a fuel efficiency of 23.27 km per litre.

The sedan comes with fourth generation hybrid system with advanced nickel metal hydride batteries. Other features include



Toyota's new Camry Hybrid. PHOTO: PTI

9 airbags, impact sensing fuel cut off, brake hold function among others. Globally, Toyota sells Camry Hybrid in over 100 countries and so far has sold over 19 million

units till date.

In India, the vehicle was first introduced in 2002; and since then, the company has sold over 11,000 units cumulatively. —PTI ■

Trump, Kim to meet anew in month after N Korean visits White House

WASHINGTON (United States)—President Donald Trump will meet for the second time with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un around the end of February, the White House said on Friday, after a top general from Pyongyang paid a rare visit to Washington.

Vice Chairman Kim Yong Chol, a right-hand man to the North Korean strongman, met the embattled president at the White House for an unusually long 90 minutes as the countries seek a denuclearization accord that could ease decades of hostility. White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said that Trump—who has opined that he and Kim Jong Un fell “in love” after last year’s landmark first summit—would again meet the North Korean leader “near the end of February” at a location to be announced later.

The flurry of diplomacy comes little more than a year after Trump was threatening to wipe North Korea off the map, with Pyongyang’s nuclear and missile tests rattling nerves in East Asia. Sanders praised North Korea’s efforts to reconcile but ruled out, for now, a key demand of Pyongyang—a lifting of sanctions. “The United States is going to continue to keep pressure and sanctions on North Korea until we see fully and verified denuclearization,” Sanders told reporters.

“We’ve had very good steps in good faith from the North Koreans in releasing the hostages and other moves and so we’ll continue those conversations,” she said.

She was referring to Pyongyang’s quick deportation last year



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and US Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun (r) stand with North Korean Vice-Chairman Kim Yong-chol (l) prior to a meeting in Washington, DC on 18 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

of an American. In 2017, a US student returned home comatose from North Korea and died within days after what a US judge said was torture.

Results or photo-op?

Kim Jong Un and Trump first met in June in Singapore, where they signed a vaguely worded document in which Kim pledged to work toward the “denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.”

But progress stalled soon afterward as Pyongyang and Washington—which stations 28,500 troops in South Korea—disagree over what that means.

Critics say that the Singapore summit was little more than a photo-op. The second round with the young and elusive North Korean leader will again offer a change of headlines for Trump amid a barrage of scandalous

allegations and a political deadlock that has shut down the US government.

“Let’s hope the second summit produces real results, but don’t hold your breath as we wait for episode two of the Trump-Kim show,” said Michael Fuchs, a senior fellow at the left-leaning Center for American Progress who worked closely with former secretary of state Hillary Clinton.

Abe Denmark, director of the Asia program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, said the Singapore summit had thrown into question the security of US allies with little in return.

“With another summit in the making, I hope for tangible progress and fear for a repeat: little movement from Kim, major concessions from Trump,” he said.

But Trump has pointed to

the halt in missile launches by North Korea and recently said there would have been “a nice big fat war in Asia” if it were not for his efforts.

Kim Yong Chol is the first North Korean dignitary in nearly two decades to spend a night in Washington, staying at a fashionable hotel a short drive from the White House.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo welcomed Kim at the hotel, posing briefly for pictures near a shelf with a framed portrait of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr., and later invited the delegation to lunch.

The State Department said that Stephen Biegun, the US special representative on North Korea, would carry on discussions at a conference in Sweden starting on Saturday that will involve Pyongyang officials. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Explosive report on Trump lawyer ‘not accurate’: special counsel

WASHINGTON (United States)—An explosive report from BuzzFeed News alleging that US President Donald Trump directed his lawyer to lie to Congress is “not accurate,” a spokesman for Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s office said on Friday, a rare statement disputing a news report. “BuzzFeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congr.— AFP ■

May calls EU leaders on ‘next steps’ for Brexit

BRUSSELS (Belgium)—British Prime Minister Theresa May spoke to EU leaders Jean-Claude Juncker and Donald Tusk by telephone on Friday to discuss where to go next on Brexit. May had previously been in touch with Brussels only by text message since Tuesday, when the British parliament rejected the divorce deal she signed in November. “Discussed with PM @theresa_may the next steps on the UK side. #Brexit,” tweeted Tusk, who represents EU leaders as president of the European Council. May also spoke separately with the head of the EU executive, European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker, at her request. “It was an exchange of information on both sides. The two agreed to stay in touch,” a spokeswoman for Juncker said. British politicians are wrangling over how to get out of the Brexit impasse, which could see Britain crash out of the union without a deal on 29 March.— AFP ■

Canadian missing in Burkina Faso believed to be alive: PM

MONTREAL (Canada)—Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Friday that a Canadian woman reported missing along with her Italian partner in Burkina Faso is believed to be alive. “To the best of my knowledge, yes,” Trudeau said in response to a reporter’s question. “With all that I know so far, I have not been told anything else other than that she is believed to be alive.”— AFP ■

Fuel pipeline blaze in Mexico kills 21, injures dozens



This handout photo distributed by the Mexican Secretary of National Defence (Secretaria de Defensa Nacional) shows Mexican soldiers standing guard near a fire after a leaking gas pipeline triggered a blaze in Tlahuelilpan, Hidalgo state on 18 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

TLAHUELILPAN (Mexico)—A massive fire broke out at an illegal pipeline tap in central Mexico on Friday, killing at least 21 people and injuring 71 more, just as the government wages a major crack-down on fuel theft. Scores of locals with jerry cans and buckets had been collecting gasoline that was gushing from a leaking pipeline when an explosion occurred, according to witnesses. Video taken in the aftermath showed desperate people fleeing the scene, screaming for help, as the enormous fire lit up the night sky in Tlahuelilpan, in Hidalgo state, about 65 miles (105 kilometres) north of Mexico City.

“I went just to see what was happening, and then the explosion happened. I rushed to help people,” said Fernando Garcia, 47. “I had to claw through pieces of people who had already been burned to bits,” he told AFP. The tragedy comes as the federal government is waging a highly publicized war on fuel theft, a problem that cost Mexico an estimated \$3 billion in 2017. President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador traveled to the scene in the early hours of Saturday. “I am deeply saddened by the suffering in Tlahuelilpan caused by the explosion of a pipeline,” the leftist leader earlier wrote on Twitter.—AFP ■



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday boarded a tank while inspecting Larsen and Toubro's Armoured Systems Complex facility at Hazira in Gujarat's Surat for manufacturing high-end guns. **PHOTO: PTI**

PM Modi inaugurates L&T's K9 Vajra gun-making facility

HAZIRA (GUJARAT)—Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the Armoured Systems Complex of Larsen and Toubro in Gujarat, the first private facility in the country where the K9 Vajra self-propelled Howitzer guns will be manufactured.

L&T had in 2017 won the Rs 4,500-crore contract from the Ministry of Defence to supply 100 units of K9 Vajra-T 155 mm/52 calibre tracked self-propelled gun systems to the In-

dian Army under the Centre's 'Make in India' initiative.

The company has set up the Armoured Systems Complex at Hazira, around 30km from Surat, to manufacture and integrate advanced armoured platforms, such as self-propelled artillery Howitzers, future infantry combat vehicles, future-ready combat vehicles and future main battle tanks. The manufacturing complex is executing the 'K9 Vajra-T 155 mm/52-caliber

tracked self-propelled Howitzer guns' programme.

K9 Vajra contract involves delivery of 100 such systems in 42 months, which is the largest contract awarded to a private company by the Ministry of Defence. L&T had signed a transfer of technology contract for guns with South Korean company Hanwha Corporation.

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was also present at the inauguration Saturday.—PTI ■

Thai PM condemns gunfire attack in southern Thailand

BANGKOK—Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Saturday condemned the gun attack in Thailand's southern province of Narathiwat that has killed at least two monks on Friday, ordering a hunt for the attackers.

Prayut has instructed officials to urgently investigate the incident and step up security measures in the province. He asked the public to have confidence in the government's commitment to restore peace in the county,

said government spokesman Puttipong Bunnakun.

About 10 militants in camouflage black uniforms stormed the temple and opened fire with automatic weapons on Friday night, killing the temple abbot and another monk.

Two other monks were seriously injured and were later rushed to the district hospital by security forces.

Witnesses said the attackers shot randomly inside the temple.—Xinhua ■

China-Viet Nam border customs seize 90 smuggled pangolins in 2018

NANNING—The customs of Dongxing, a city on the China-Viet Nam border, seized 90 living pangolins in 23 smuggling cases last year.

In addition to living pangolins, the customs officers in Dongxing, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, also seized 200 kg of pangolin scales, 22,082 dried sea horses and a batch of other wildlife products.

In March 2018, a criminal gang using modified motorcycles to carry 14 living pangolins into China was caught by the anti-smuggling department.

Pangolins are endangered animals under second-class state protection in China. Those who catch, kill, buy or sell endangered wild animals on the protection list can face more than 10 years in prison, plus fines.—Xinhua ■

Seoul welcomes planned second Trump-Kim summit: presidential office

SEOUL (South Korea)—South Korea on Saturday welcomed a planned second summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, saying it hoped the meeting would be a "turning point" for peace on the Korean peninsula.

The announcement from Seoul's presidential office came hours after the White House said Trump would again meet the North Korean leader "near the end of February" at a location yet to be announced.

"We expect the planned North-US summit would be a turning point in establishing a permanent peace regimen on the Korean peninsula," said Kim Eui-kyeom, South Korean President Moon Jae-in's spokesman. South Korea would continue close coordination with its key ally US to achieve the goal of "complete denuclearisation," he continued. He added Seoul would expand dialogue with Pyongyang to make the planned summit "successful".

Kim and Trump first met in June in Singapore, where they signed a vaguely worded document in which Kim pledged to work towards the "denuclearization of the Korean peninsula".

But progress stalled soon afterward as Pyongyang and Washington—which stations 28,500 troops in South Korea—disagree over what that means.—AFP ■

IN Picture

Birds at Caohai National Nature Reserve in China's Guizhou



Photo taken on 18 January, 2019 shows bar-headed geese at the Caohai National Nature Reserve in Weining, southwest China's Guizhou Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

‘Make love, not CO2’: Swiss students march for climate action

GENEVA (Switzerland)—Thousands of school children and university students across Switzerland skipped class on Friday to march in the streets and demand climate action, telling politicians “There is no planet B”. Despite vows from a number of school districts to show zero tolerance for those who missed class, pupils as young as 12 turned out across at least 15 Swiss cities and towns for the “climate strike.”

The protest was inspired by Greta Thunberg, a 15-year-old Swedish girl who since last August has been ditching school each Friday to protest in front of Sweden’s parliament demanding concrete ac-

tion from politicians to halt climate change.

After she garnered international headlines with a fiery speech before world leaders at last month’s COP24 climate talks in Poland, thousands of students have followed in her footsteps, staging “climate strikes” in several countries, including Australia, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Japan and the United States. The strike in Switzerland kicked off Friday morning in Lausanne, where more than 8,000 young people marched through the streets, local police said. Another estimated 4,000 marched across Geneva later on, ending up in front of the

United Nations’ European headquarters.

“I am demonstrating so that we can give ourselves and our children a future. We are the ones who are the most affected, we are the ones who will be alive in 30, 40, 50 years,” 19-year-old Alexandre Hugel told AFP. “If we don’t act now, if we don’t start taking measures (against climate change) we will run into a brick wall.”

‘Planet hotter than my boyfriend’

The youths used humour and word-play to get their message across, with protesters in Geneva brandishing home-made cardboard signs



The protest was inspired by Greta Thunberg, a 15-year-old Swedish girl who since last August has been ditching school each Friday to protest. **PHOTO: AFP**

with statements like: “If the climate was a bank, it would have been rescued already” and “The planet is hotter than my boyfriend”. “System change, not climate change,” read a placard in Zurich, while protesters in Lausanne

warned that “The oceans are rising up, and so are we”. One poster spotted in Neuchatel meanwhile urged “Make love, not CO2”. The huge turnout came despite the fact that a number of Swiss cantons, like Wallis and St Gallen,

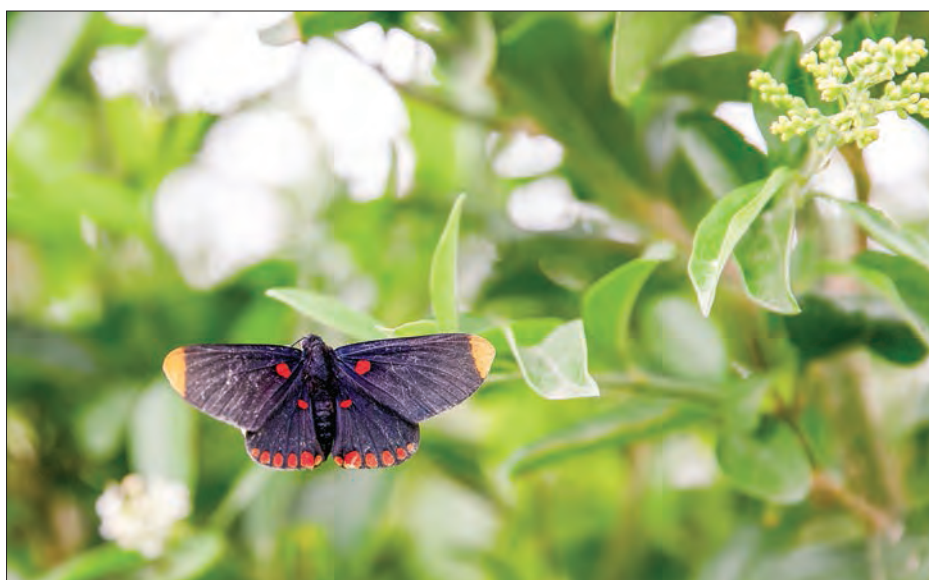
warned they would penalise students who missed class to protest. Geneva meanwhile authorised students to take several hours off to join the protests, although for minors it required parents to sign permission slips. —AFP ■

Butterflies, the unlikely victims of Trump’s border wall

MISSION (United States)—In Mission, Texas, the construction of part of a long-promised wall on the border with Mexico to stem the tide of undocumented migrants is already in progress. Among the many who will be affected? Butterflies. Mission, located in the lower Rio Grande Valley, is home to the National Butterfly Centre, a private non-profit 100-acre (40-hectare) preserve dedicated to conservation of the insects in their natural habitat. But the wall—a key plank of President Donald Trump’s immigration policy—could end up chopping the area in half, and severely complicate any work being done to save the butterflies that flutter through.

“This land used to be an onion field,” explains Luciano Guerra, who is responsible for education outreach at the center. “We converted it back to native habitat.” “And when we created the habitat for the butterflies, we also attracted birds because the birds like to eat the butterflies and the caterpillars. Then we attracted things that eat the birds, and so on.”

In the end, more than 200 species have been counted here. In spring and autumn, “we can have 80 to 100 species of butterflies here



A Red-bordered Pixie butterfly at the National Butterfly Centre on 16 January, 2019 in Mission, Texas. **PHOTO: AFP**

in one day,” Guerra says. Among those are the easily recognizable monarch, with its black and orange wings; the queen butterfly, native to North and South America; and the bright orange passion butterfly. Along the banks of the Rio Grande, which forms a natural border with Mexico, there are also bobcats, coyotes, javelinas or skunk pigs, armadillos and Texas turtles. Building a wall here would be “devastating,” the center says on its website.

Risk of ‘biological desert’

Marianna Trevino Wright, the center’s executive director, traveled to Washington to plead her case with lawmakers.

The funding for the part of the wall that would run through the nature preserve—unlike the money at the heart of a political showdown in the US capital—was approved last year. According to the Center, construction of the 33-mile (50-kilometre) stretch of barrier could begin in late February. Trevino Wright impressed upon lawmakers (mainly Democrats) that the wall project is in violation of multiple environmental protection laws.

The wall and the glaring spotlights that would come with it will disrupt the “nocturnal activities of all plants and animals, transforming what is now a vibrant but endangered ecosystem into a biological

desert,” she said. “People say, ‘Well, the butterflies can fly over it or fly through it or around it.’ “Not necessarily,” explains Guerra. “Some butterflies fly lower to the ground—they could not go over that 18-foot concrete wall.”

Moreover, “when the bulldozers come in to clear the way for the border wall, they’re going to knock down trees, plants, grasses and so on, which are host plants for the butterfly species we have here,” he added. Those trees also are the home of several species of birds, especially in the spring, and some mammals risk seeing their natural habitat destroyed—or being hit by construction vehicles, Guerra warned. —AFP ■

Brazil agriculture minister defends pro-business stance on indigenous lands

BRASÍLIA (Brazil)—Brazil’s agriculture minister on Friday defended a policy of wanting to develop agribusiness on indigenous lands, and dismissing “hysteria” about the issue of protecting the Amazon rainforest.

Tereza Cristina da Costa told invited foreign journalists in Brasilia that she was “favorable” to opening up indigenous land to business interests, “but the law needs to be changed” to allow that to happen.

She said that past policies of preserving such territory had impoverished communities by preventing development. One state, Roraima, had “a very serious problem because nearly all of it is marked for preservation, so what can the state live off?” She added that “we also need to preserve economic activity,” and that environmental conservation should no longer be handled “in an ideological way.” Costa said criticism that the new government of President Jair Bolsonaro was looking to do away with indigenous lands and territory set aside for the descendants of slaves were “quasi-hysterical” and ignored laws that prevented such moves.

Bolsonaro had created waves on the first day of taking office, 1 January, by putting responsibility for the demarcation of indigenous lands under the agriculture ministry, taking it away from a specialized indigenous rights agency. —AFP ■



Yangon Sailing Club Annual General Meeting

All members of Yangon Sailing Club are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held as follows:

Date	: 27 January 2019
Place	: Yangon Sailing Club
Time	: 10:30 hrs

Hon. Secretary
Yangon Sailing Club

Hollywood event celebrates 20th anniversary of Japan short film festival

LOS ANGELES—Prizewinning Japanese filmmaker Naomi Kawase and star drummer Yoshiki were among the celebrities who attended a Hollywood event on Thursday aimed at celebrating the 20th anniversary of an international short film competition in Japan.

“Tonight is like a reunion. We have many filmmakers here. I would like to enjoy our short films tonight but also celebrate many great films,” Tetsuya Bessho, an actor and president of the organizer of the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, said in his address at the event.

Jason Reitman, director of the upcoming sequel to the Ghostbusters series, took part in the event as the recipient of a 2001 audience award at the film festival for “In God We Trust.”

“I’m not sure there’s a more pure form of filmmaking than making short films,” Reitman said. “It’s extraordinary to make a short film and to one day get a phone call saying, ‘We’d like to bring you to Japan.’ And it was a dream,” he said. Kawase, a Cannes Film Festival award winner who has been tapped to direct the official film of the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, said, “Even if it’s in a time period of 20 minutes, you can have a portrayal of life reflected in the piece.”

Singaporean director Yee Wei Chai’s film “Benjamin’s Last Day at Katong Swimming Complex,” which won the grand prix at the Japanese film competition in 2018, and “The Human Face,” a documentary about Kazuhiro Tsuji, who became the first Japanese to win the Academy Award for makeup and hairstyling, among others, were screened during the event. The annual short film competition in Japan, which began in 1999, is one of Asia’s largest short film festivals. The grand prize winner at the Japanese festival is eligible for an Oscar nomination by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Thursday’s event was co-organized by Japan House Los Angeles, a Japanese Foreign Ministry facility used to promote the country’s culture.—Kyodo News ■



Japanese filmmaker Naomi Kawase waves during an event in Hollywood on 17 January, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Kevin Hart to star in drama ‘Fatherhood’

LOS ANGELES—Actor Kevin Hart has been cast as the lead in Sony Pictures’ new feature “Fatherhood”.

The film, to be directed Paul Weitz, is an official adaptation of Matt Logelin best-seller “Two Kisses for Maddy: A Memoir of Loss & Love”, reported Variety.

The story follows a widower who must raise his daughter after his wife dies in childbirth.

Logelin’s book has been adapted by Dana Stevens with Weitz providing his own draft.

The project will be produced by Marty Bowen, David Beaubaire, Peter Kiernan, Hart and John Cheng will produce the movie.

Hart, 39, will start working on the new film after he completes shooting for “Jumanji 2”, the sequel of his 2017 hit “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle”.

He was most recently seen in alongside Bryan Cranston and Nicole Kidman in “The Upside”.—PTI ■

Sony Music drops UaS singer R Kelly: reports

NEW YORK (United States)—Sony Music has called it quits with embattled singer R Kelly, ending his contract with subsidiary RCA after a documentary aired accusing him of repeated cases of sexual abuse, media reports said on Friday.

While Variety and Billboard reported the breakup, Sony Music did not immediately confirm it when contacted by AFP.

One woman who sued R

Kelly, accusing him of sexual battery, knowingly infecting her with a sexually transmitted disease and false imprisonment, also says he has threatened her.

Women’s rights attorney Gloria Allred told reporters on Monday that her client Faith Rodgers, 20, faced “efforts to intimidate and retaliate” from Kelly after she filed the lawsuit now pending in New York’s Supreme Court.



In this file photo taken on 14 June, 2013, R Kelly performs onstage at Which Stage during day 3 of the 2013 Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival in Manchester, Tennessee. **PHOTO: AFP**

And just after Rodgers testified in the documentary “Surviving R Kelly” that aired this month, her lawyers say Kelly and his team created a Facebook page—which the social media giant removed within hours—seeking to discredit accusers including Rodgers, posting “private” photos of her.

But the singer of “I Believe I Can Fly” fame—who recently announced a new album—has seen his reputation more and more seriously hard hit. Calls for a boycott gathered pace in some measure thanks to the #MeToo and Time’s Up movements and via the #MuteRKelly hashtag on Twitter. Spotify announced in May it would drop the singer from its curated “playlists.”

The last straw was the broadcast in early January of “Surviving R. Kelly,” a documentary in which several women accused the singer and producer, 52, of having sex with girls under the age of 16, and of having surrounded themselves with women whom he made sex slaves.—AFP ■

French actress Deneuve to auction personal YSL clothing next week

PARIS (France)—French screen legend Catherine Deneuve’s personal clothing collection designed by her friend Yves Saint Laurent will be auctioned in Paris next week.

Deneuve, 75, is auctioning her clothing by the late fashion icon after selling her country home in northern France where she kept a wardrobe full of Saint Laurent items.

“These are the designs of such a talented man who designed only to make women more beautiful,” Deneuve said in a message last October shared by the auction house Christie’s, which is handling the sale.

Hundreds of items, including coats, dresses and accessories—some of them unique pieces designed for Deneuve—will be auctioned in an open sale on 24 January and online.

One of the highlights of the auction is a beaded evening dress from a 1969 collection which she wore when meeting director Alfred Hitchcock in the

same year, as well as an evening dress with pink ostrich feathers. Deneuve was often described as a muse for Saint Laurent and was a leading figure in the designer’s circle of glamorous female friends which included Princess Grace of Monaco, Wallis Simpson and Paloma Picasso. After meeting when she was only 22, Deneuve enjoyed an intense 40-year friendship with Saint Laurent until his death in 2008, telling him at a major exhibition of his work in 2002 that “my biggest ever love affair is you”.

Oscar-nominated Deneuve hit the headlines in January when she signed an open letter objecting to the #MeToo movement that has seen women worldwide go public with allegations of sexual assault and rape. The star of the classic 1967 film “Belle du Jour”, in which she plays a bored housewife who spends her afternoons as a prostitute, wrote in favour of men’s freedom to “hit on” women.—AFP ■

NASA and China collaborate on Moon mission

WASHINGTON (United States)—The space agencies of the United States and China are in touch and coordinating efforts on Moon exploration, NASA said on Friday as it navigates a strict legal framework aimed at preventing technology transfer to China.

“With the required approval from Congress, NASA has been in discussions with China to explore the possibility of observing a signature of the landing plume of their lunar lander, Chang’e 4, using our @NASAMoon spacecraft’s instrument,” NASA’s associate administrator for the science mission directorate, Thomas Zurbuchen, said on Twitter.

Zurbuchen’s tweet confirmed a similar statement made on Monday by the deputy chief commander of China Lunar Exploration Programme, Wu Yanhua.

NASA shared information from a US satellite while China told the Americans about the

latitude, longitude and time of the landing “in a timely manner,” he said.

The hope was that NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) could observe the historic touchdown of the Chinese lander on 3 January.

NASA provided the planned orbit path of LRO to China, but it turned out the spacecraft was not in the right place at the right time.

“For a number of reasons, NASA was not able to phase LRO’s orbit to be at the optimal location during the landing, however NASA was still interested in possibly detecting the plume well after the landing,” the agency said in a statement.

“Science gathered about how lunar dust is ejected upwards during a spacecraft’s landing could inform future missions and how they arrive on the lunar surface.”

Such observations could help astronauts prepare for future missions to the Moon.



In this file photo taken on 30 January, 2018, a person poses for a photo as the moon rises over Griffith Park in Los Angeles, California. The space agencies of the United States and China are in touch and coordinating efforts on Moon exploration, NASA said on 18 January, 2019, as it navigates a strict legal framework aimed at preventing technology transfer to China. **PHOTO: AFP**

NASA’s lunar orbiter will pass over the Chang’e 4 landing site on 31 January and will snap pictures, as it did for the Chang’e 3 in 2013.

The agency said significant findings resulting from the co-operation would be shared with the global research community in February at a United Nations space gathering in Austria.

Since 2011, the US Congress has barred NASA or the White

House Office of Science and Technology Policy from using federal funds “to develop, design, plan, promulgate, implement or execute a bilateral policy, program, order, or contract of any kind to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company.”

Exceptions are possible, but NASA must convince Congress and the FBI that the activity

would “pose no risk of resulting in the transfer of technology, data, or other information with national security or economic security implications to China or a Chinese-owned company.”

NASA said in its Friday statement that “all NASA data associated with this activity are publicly available” and “NASA’s cooperation with China is transparent, reciprocal and mutually beneficial.”—AFP ■

Roscosmos suggests new group of Earth remote sensing satellites “Sovereign’s Eye”

KHIMKI—Russian state space corporation Roscosmos has suggested to create a group of Earth remote sensing satellites called “Sovereign’s Eye,” Roscosmos’s head Dmitry Rogozin told reporters on Friday.

“We have presented a new project which we consider promising. After a successful launch from the Vostochny spaceport in December, we have reinforced the group of Earth remote sens-

ing satellites. We are suggesting a project called ‘Sovereign’s Eye’ so that we can see the dynamics of any processes on Earth,” Rogozin said.

This group of satellites may be found helpful by the Russian Emergencies Ministry and agricultural workers. “For instance, for the Russian Emergencies Ministry, we will be able to deploy firefighting aircraft to an area of 25 sq m. We will also present the

project to agricultural workers. This will include using drones in agriculture and the possibility of monitoring arable land,” Rogozin noted.

The “Sovereign’s Eye” system will also help monitor changes in infrastructure facilities, the Roscosmos head noted. “This will be very helpful for the authorities. All buildings and changes in infrastructure facilities are seen from space,” he said.—Tass ■

Key diamond-pencil structural link points to major health, technology advances: Aussie research

SYDNEY—Australian scientists on Saturday said they have used computers to uncover a crucial structural link between diamonds and pencils, pointing to a major step in material analysis with huge implications for future technologies ranging from mobile communications to medical treatment.

Griffith University and University of New South Wales researchers tapped the computers to show that the diamond structure of commonly used compound boron-nitride is more stable than the graphite structure of a pencil, according to their statement.

Carbon has two chemical neighbors, boron and nitrogen, which together act very much like carbon on its own, said the researchers. The resulting boron-nitride compound also comes in diamond and graphite forms, which are like carbon in some ways

but dramatically different in others. “The problem is, experiments struggle to differentiate which of the two forms is more stable, and at what temperature they swap,” said Griffith University’s Dr Tim Gould. “We were able to solve this problem by using supercomputers ... to understand the stability of the two pristine structures,” said Gould. “We used cutting-edge theoretical methods that were able to achieve a level of precision even better than experimental work, which involved the challenging task of turning diamonds into pencils. We were thus able to answer the questions that experiments could not,” he said.

The latest findings, which were published in scientific journal *Sciences Advances*, has direct implications for how boron-nitride compounds can be used in various technologies, according to the researchers.—Xinhua ■

Swiss scientists develop tiny swimming robots that may deliver drugs in blood vessels

WASHINGTON—Swiss scientists have developed a flexible, nature-inspired tiny robot that can swim through fluids and may deliver drugs to diseased tissue one day.

The study published on Friday in the journal *Science Advances* described the soft, bio-compatible device “like a living microorganism,” wriggling in fluids that may be dense, viscous or moving at rapid speeds.

Selman Sakar, the lead author of the study and assistant professor from Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, told Xinhua that the prototypes were around one millimetre in length but they could be made smaller using an origami-based folding method.

The miniaturized robot can pass through narrow blood vessels and intricate systems without compromising on speed or maneuverability, neither losing control of the moving direction. The deformations can be

“programmed” in advance without sensors or actuators, allowing the robot automatically morphing into the most efficient shape, according to the study.

The smart device is made of hydrogel nanocomposites and the magnetic nanoparticles within the hydrogel can be controlled by an electromagnetic field. It can also be left to navigate on their own through cavities by riding the fluid flow.

“Nature has evolved a multitude of microorganisms that change shape as their environmental conditions change,” said Bradley Nelson, co-author of the paper and professor of robotics and intelligent systems at ETH Zurich. “This basic principle inspired our micro-robot design.”

The device is cost-effective and the researchers are working on improving its performance through complex fluids like those found in the human body.—Xinhua ■

Serena juggernaut rolls into Aussie Open last 16

MELBOURNE (Australia)—Serena Williams swatted aside Ukrainian teenager Dayana Yastremska in straight sets on Saturday, powering into the Australian Open last 16 as she chases a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title.

Williams defeated world number 57 Yastremska 6-2, 6-1 and next faces either sister Venus, who is unseeded this year, or world number one Simona Halep. The 37-year-old won her 23rd major Down Under two years ago while two months pregnant and is the bookies' favourite to claim an eighth Australian title, despite being seeded 16th.

Another major would match



Serena Williams of the US serves against Ukraine's Dayana Yastremska during their women's singles match on day six of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 19 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Margaret Court's tally and Williams looks in ominous form as she chases down the Australian great's record, dropping only nine matches in her opening three matches.

"I'm here, I'm playing as hard as I can and doing the best I can, which is really all I can do," she said.

Her latest victim Yastremska was not even born when the American won her first major at Flushing Meadows in 1999.

The 18-year-old was in tears after her drubbing and Williams comforted her at the net, telling her "you're gonna make it, don't cry". "I thought she did really amazing," Williams said of the youngster. "She came out swinging, I felt like she really came out ready to go."

A massacre appeared imminent as Williams raced to a 4-0 lead but Yastremska managed to hold serve twice in the first set, prompting wild applause from the crowd.

She tried to engage Williams in rallies but was powerless to stop the American taking the first set 6-2 after 27 minutes.

Williams was equally relentless in the second set, breaking Yastremska and allowing the teen to score only four points off her serve as she went up 4-1.

Yastremska had treatment on her right foot but it was only delaying the inevitable and Williams took just a few minutes to bring up match point after play resumed.

She hit her first chance into the net but completed the win after Yastremska sent a return wide.—AFP ■



Yadanabon's players celebrate the victory as Win Naing Tun scored the come-from-behind goal to equalise 2-2 from their loss. **PHOTO: MNL**

Win Naing Tun's late goal gives Yadanabon draw to Shan United

AT a thrilling match in the Myanmar National League 2019, two former champions of the Myanmar National League, Yadanabon FC and Shan United FC, played each other to a 2-2 draw at the Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay yesterday.

In the previous matches, both teams earned one point as they faced the draw matches, while yesterday's match was seen as an effort to score their full point win (3 points). Shan United led the match 2-1 at the 90 minute mark. Shan United played with their best attacking style from the kick off and gained their opener at the 10 minute mark

with a goal scored by Shan's foreign player Maycon.

But the goal was equalised by the brilliant Yadanabon attacker Win Naing Tun at the 13 minute mark, as the first half finished 1-1. With using speedy wing field plays, both teams attacked in the second half. Again, at the 54 minute mark, Shan's star Htet Phyto Wai scored a leading goal for his team and the match was 2-1 at the 90 minute mark.

The draw match was won due to the come-from-behind score of Yadanabon's young star player Win Naing Tun at 90 plus minutes in the match, and the score went to 2-2.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

MFF Amateur League 2018 to conclude today

THE closing ceremonies for the MFF Amateur League 2018, in Yangon and Mandalay, will be held on 20 January, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF). At the festivities in both cities, the awards ceremony will also be held following the final matches. As part of the final match of the upper Myanmar region zone of the tourney, to be held at Bahtoo stadium in Mandalay, Kyal Sin Su team will play against Ayar Zar team at 8:30am on Sunday.

Similarly, at the Myanmar Football Academy's field in Yangon, the final of the lower Myanmar region zone will be played with the New Light team playing against the Mon team at 3:30 pm on Sunday. The champion teams from both cities will be awarded K 3 million, while the second place teams will receive K 2 million, the third place teams will earn K 1.5 million and the fourth place teams will be rewarded K 1.1 million. Consolation prizes for the other teams are K 9 million, K 7 million, K 5 million and K 3 million, based upon their teams' ranks, according to the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Lukaku still part of Solskjaer's plans for Man Utd

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Romelu Lukaku has been assured by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer that he will get chances at Manchester United despite being overtaken by Marcus Rashford in the competition for a starting place. Lukaku has not started a Premier League match since Solskjaer took over as caretaker manager on 19 December, although he has scored three goals in four appearances in all competitions in that time.

The Belgian scored in his only start under Solskjaer against Reading in the FA Cup and off the bench against Bournemouth and Newcastle in the Premier League.

Rashford's pace appears to be better suited to the quick style of play that Solskjaer prefers, as evidenced by the English international's winner in a 1-0 victory at Tottenham last weekend, but the Norwegian has made clear that he will need all six of his senior forward play-

ers as they attempt to progress in three competitions.

Solskjaer has tended to prefer Anthony Martial and Jesse Lingard alongside Rashford as his front three, with Alexis Sanchez's involvement restricted by injury, although Juan Mata has also started two of Solskjaer's five league matches. Signed from Everton for £75 million in July 2017, Lukaku is United's second most expensive ever player and the caretaker manager insists he remains a crucial part of his squad. "He's a big part of the squad, definitely, with his personality around the place. There's no one scoring as many goals as him in training.

"There are the three who play the most but then you've got Rom, you've got Juan, you've got Alexis, so I've got a front six I can rotate with and Rom is definitely going to be playing games." Solskjaer referred to his

own time as a player at Old Trafford, when he built a reputation for scoring goals as a substitute.

In the United side who won the treble in 1999, Solskjaer and Teddy Sheringham were the two back-up strikers, behind first choices Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke, yet scored the goals that won the Champions League final against Bayern Munich, completing a season that also brought them the Premier League and FA Cup.

"I used to be one of four strikers when we played with two. Now we have six forwards and we play with three most of the time. "We'll be OK to be able to rotate and there's enough games and playing time. It's about taking the chances when you get them, and to be fair, Rom has scored three already and Marcus has scored three. It's up to the strikers to take them."—AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

20 JANUARY 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



NEW WORLD, NEW RULES

Once I decided to stay in comfort zone.
Once I decided to deviate the norms.
Once I decided to follow the old paths.
Once I decided to start revolutions.
Once I thought it is so weird to be new and different.
Once I was afraid of rejections and criticisms.
Once I scared to death to say 'no'.
Once I hated failure.
And still...



By Su Thiri Khit
First Year (Business Management)
University of Illinois at Chicago

THERE were times I felt like everyone except me seemed so happy with being who they are and what they have. So, I looked for people whose steps would inspire me. Yes, I found out inspiration both in books and from people around me. "See. They are accepting who they are and anything granted by life. They move on. They don't care. Things get easier in that way." This is what I reminded me daily to find myself.

But why... I can't get enough of myself. "I should have done this. Why am I always like this? Why did it have to be me?" While everybody knows how to satisfy themselves, I am here blaming myself for not being always the best. As the time went by, I started to notice that different people are running to disparate targets with diverse perceptions. Nobody can tell someone, "You are wrong." By further acquaintance, people get along well with their life and they do know what the best options are to make it best. Then how am I supposed to put the blames in me for my own perspectives and decisions? Whether they went in my way or not, the fault is not in me. I have the right to be wrong and that is what I totally forgot all the time.

"When you adore the fact that everyone has their own story, everything else will fall into place." I used to read or hear lines similar to this so often but wasn't aware of its deep meaning. This seems an ordinary line but actually means a lot to me lately. Till now, I am still finding my feet in this world and I don't know where I am belonged to. Mistakes and failures are still showing up like sunrises. My defects can be endlessly counted like the sheep we count when we can't fall asleep. However, the blessed thing is I got to know how to appreciate the existence of my life and I am sure this is what makes everyone move on no matter how things turn out.





(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Essay-Writing

စာများရေးသား၍ တောင်းဆိုကြသောကြောင့် ယခုလတွင် Essays များ ထည့်ပေးထားပါသည်။ ယခင်လကလည်း ထည့်ပေးခဲ့ပါသည်။ နောင်တွင်လည်း ဆက်လက်ထည့်ပေးသွားပါမည်။

မိမိရေးသားနိုင်သောအတိုင်းအတာအတွင်းမှစာကြောင်းတိုများဖြင့် လွယ်လွယ်ကူကူ ရေးသားတတ်စေရန် မြန်မာလိုတွေးတောပုံကို ထည့်ပေးထားပါသည်။

The season I like best

မြန်မာပြည်သည် အပူပိုင်းတိုင်းပြည်တစ်ပြည်ဖြစ်သည်။ သူမမှာ ပူအိုက်စွတ်စိုသောရာသီရှိသည်။ ထို့အပြင် ဥတုသုံးလီလည်းရှိသည်။ နွေ၊ မိုး၊ ဆောင်းတို့ဖြစ်သည်။ နွေသည်ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလမှမေလအထိဖြစ်သည်။ မိုးရာသီသည် ဇွန်လမှ စက်တင်ဘာလအထိဖြစ်သည်။ ဆောင်းသည် အောက်တိုဘာလမှ ဇန်နဝါရီလအထိဖြစ်သည်။

Burma is a tropical country. She has a hot wet climate. Moreover, there are three seasons. They are summer, the rainy season (The Monsoon) and winter. Summer is from February to May. The Monsoon is from June to September. Winter is from October to January.

မြန်မာပြည်သည် လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးသောတိုင်းပြည်တစ်ပြည်ဖြစ်သည်။ မြန်မာပြည်သည် ဆန်နှင့် သီးနှံမျိုးစုံစိုက်ပျိုးသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် ဆန်သည်အဓိကထွက်ကုန်ဖြစ်သည်။ ဆန်သည်မိုးနှင့်နေရောင်ခြည်များစွာလိုအပ်သည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် မိုးရာသီသည် မြန်မာပြည်အတွက် အသုံးအဝင်ဆုံးသောရာသီဖြစ်သည်။ ကျွန်တော်တို့သစ်သီးများနှင့် ဟင်းသီးဟင်းရွက်များစွာရရှိသည်။ ငါးနှင့်ပုစွန်များလည်း ပေါများသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် ကျွန်တော်သည် ဤရာသီကို မကြိုက်ပါ။ ဤရာသီသည် စွတ်စိုလွန်းအားကြီးသည်။ လမ်းများသည် ရွှံ့ထူ၍ ညစ်ပတ်သည်။ ကျွန်တော်အကြိုက်ဆုံးရာသီမှာ ဆောင်းရာသီဖြစ်သည်။

နေ့စဉ် ရာသီဥတုသည် သာယာသည်။ ပန်းများအစွမ်းကုန်ပွင့်နေကြသည်။ လောကတစ်ခုလုံးလှပနေသည်။ နံနက်ခင်းများသည် အေးမြ၍လေသည်လတ်ဆတ်သည်။ ကျွန်တော်သည် နံနက်စောစောထ၍ သင်ခန်းစာများကို လေ့လာသည်။ ကာယလေ့ကျင့်ခန်းလည်း ယူသည်။

Burma is an agricultural country. She grows rice and many other crops. However, rice is the main product. Rice needs plenty of rain and sunshine. So, the rainy reason is the most useful to Burma. We get a lot of fruits and vegetables. Fish and prawns are plentiful. However, I do not like this season. It is too wet. The streets are muddy and dirty. The season I like best is winter. The weather is fine. The flowers are in full bloom. All the world is beautiful. Mornings are cool and the air is fresh. I get up early every morning and study my lessons. I also take physical exercises.

ပွဲတော်များနှင့်ပွဲများကိုလည်း ဤရာသီအတွင်းတွင်ကျင်းပကြသည်။ မြန်မာများသည် ပွဲအလွန်ကြိုက်သည်။ ညဉ့်နက်သန်းခေါင်ပွဲကြည့်ခြင်းကို နှစ်ခြိုက်ကြသည်။ ကျွန်တော်သည် ဆောင်းရာသီကိုအနှစ်သက်ဆုံးဖြစ်သည်။ အဘယ့်ကြောင့်ဆိုသော် ကျွန်တော်သည် အားကစားသမားတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်၍ အားကစားယှဉ်ပြိုင်ပွဲများကို ဤရာသီတွင်ကျင်းပလေ့ရှိသည်။ ကျွန်တော်ဘောလုံးနှင့် ဘက်စုံကစားဘောကစားသည်။ ကျွန်တော်သည် အားကစားပွဲ (ပြေး၊ ခုန်၊ ပစ်) များ၌လည်း ပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲလေ့ရှိသည်။ ကျွန်တော်သည်ဆုများစွာရရှိ၍ အလွန်အားရဝမ်းသာဖြစ်ရသည်။ သို့ရာတွင်စာမေးပွဲများလည်း နီးကပ်လာ၍ကျွန်တော်သည် စာမေးပွဲအတွက် အဆင်သင့်ဖြစ်ရန် ပြင်ဆင်စပြုရသည်။

Festivals and pwes are also held during this season. The Myanmar like pwes very much. They enjoy themselves watching pwes late into the night. I like winter best because I am a sportsman and sports and games are held during this season. I play football and basket ball. I also take part in sports activities. I win many prizes and I am very pleased. However, our examination is drawing near and I begin to prepare myself for the examination.

စာမေးပွဲပြီးဆုံးသွားသောအခါ နွေရာသီရောက်လာသည်။ ကျောင်းသားများ

သည် ဤရာသီကို အနှစ်သက်ဆုံးဖြစ်သည်။ အဘယ့်ကြောင့်ဆိုသော် ကျောင်းများပိတ်၍ ရှည်လျားသောနေ့ရာသီ အားလပ်ရက်လည်း စတင်ခဲ့ပြီ။ သို့ရာတွင် ကျွန်တော် ဤရာသီကိုမကြိုက်ပါ။ အလွန်ပူပြင်းလွန်း၍ သစ်ပင်များလည်း အရွက်ကင်းခဲ့ကြသည်။ ကျွန်တော်သည် ဆောင်းရာသီကို အကြိုက်ဆုံးဖြစ်သည်။

When the examinations are over, summer comes. The students like this season best because the schools have been closed and the long summer vacation has begun. But I do not like this season. It is too hot and the trees are leafless. I like winter best.

A visit to a village

ပြီးခဲ့သောတနင်္ဂနွေက ကျွန်တော်ရွာတစ်ရွာသို့ သွားရောက်လည်ပတ်ခဲ့သည်။ ထိုရွာသည် ရွာသာရွာဖြစ်သည်။ ထိုရွာသည် အင်းစိန်မြို့လှိုင်မြစ်တစ်ဖက်ကမ်းပေါ်တွင်ရှိသည်။ ကျွန်တော်သည် ကျွန်တော်မိတ်ဆွေမြတ်ဦး၊ အိုမောင်တို့နှင့်အတူ သွားခဲ့သည်။ ကျွန်တော်တို့သည် အင်းစိန်သို့ ဘတ်(စ်)ကားဖြင့် သွား၍ ထိုရွာသို့ လှေတစ်စီးငှား၍သွားကြသည်။ ကျွန်တော်တို့သည် ထိုရွာသို့ နံနက်(၇:၀၀) နာရီခန့်တွင် ရောက်သွားကြသည်။

I visited a village last Sunday. It is Ywatha. It is on the bank of the Hlaing River across Insein. I went there together with my friends Myat Oo and Ant Maung. We went to Insein by bus and we took a boat to the village. We arrived there at about 7 a.m.

ကျွန်တော်မှာ ထိုရွာတွင် ဦးလေးတစ်ယောက်ရှိသည်။ သူသည်ချမ်းသာသော လယ်သမားတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။ သူသည်ချမ်းသာသောလယ်သမားတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။ သူသည်စပါးစိုက်သည်။ သူ့မှာမွေးမြူရေးခြံတစ်ခြံလည်းရှိသည်။ ကျွန်တော်တို့သည်နွားနွီးများစွာသောက်၍ကြက်ဥများစွာစားခဲ့သည်။ ထို့နောက်ကျွန်တော်တို့မွေးမြူရေးခြံထဲသို့လျှောက်လည်ခဲ့ကြသည်။ ကျွန်တော်တို့လယ်ယာလုပ်သားများစွာကိုမြင်ခဲ့ကြသည်။ အများစုမှာ မိန်းကလေးများဖြစ်သည်။ အချို့တို့သည် ကြက်များကိုအစာကျွေးနေသည်။ အချို့တို့သည်ဝက်များကို ဆေးကြောနေသည်။ အချို့တို့သည် နွားမများကိုနှိုညှစ်နေသည်။ အချို့တို့သည် ဆန်ကွဲများကိုထောင်းနေသည်။ အချို့သည် အပင်များကိုရေလောင်းနေသည်။ အချို့တို့သည် ဘဲများကျောင်းနေကြသည်။ အချို့တို့သည်လယ်ကွင်းများထဲတွင် ကောက်စိုက်နေကြသည်။

I have an uncle in that village. He is a rich farmer. He grows paddy. He has a livestock farm as well. We drank a lot of milk and ate a lot of eggs. Then we went round the livestock farm. We saw many farm workers. Most of them are girls. Some were feeding the chickens. Some were washing the pigs. Some were milking the cows. Some were pounding broken rice. Some were watering the plants. Some were looking after the ducks. Some were transplanting paddy seedlings in the fields.

ဦးလေး၏ လယ်ကွက်နှင့်မနီးမဝေးတွင် စမ်းချောင်းတစ်ခုရှိသည်။ ကျွန်တော်တို့သည် စမ်းချောင်းထဲ တွင် နာရီဝက်ခန့်ရေကူးခဲ့ကြသည်။ ကျေးရွာသူကလေးများ စမ်းချောင်းတွင်ရေလာခပ်သည်ကို မြင်ခဲ့ရသည်။ မွန်းတည့်ချိန်ခန့်တွင် ဦးလေးအိမ်သို့ပြန်၍ ထမင်းစားကြသည်။ ထမင်းစားပြီးသောအခါရွာထဲလျှောက်လည်ကြသည်။

There is a stream near my uncle's fields. We swam in it for about half an hour. We saw village girls fetching water from it. We went to the uncle's house at about noon and had lunch. After lunch we went round the village.

ထိုရွာသည် ရွာကြီးတစ်ရွာဖြစ်သည်။ အိမ်ခြေ(၃၀၀)ကျော်ရှိသည်။ လူပေါင်း (၁၆၀၀)လောက်ရှိသည်။ အများစုမှာ လယ်သမားများဖြစ်သည်။ တံငါသည် အချို့လည်းရှိသည်။ အိမ်အများစုကိုသစ်ဝါးတို့ဖြင့် ဆောက်ထားသည်။ သူတို့သည် အလွန်အလွန်လည်း မချမ်းသာ၊ အလွန်အလွန်လဲ မဆင်းရဲကြ။ ထိုရွာတွင် အကောင်းဆုံးအဆောက်အအုံမှာဘုန်းကြီးကျောင်းဖြစ်သည်။ ရွာဦးထိပ်တွင်ရှိသည်။ ကျောင်းနှင့်မနီးမဝေးတွင်ဘုရားတစ်ဆူရှိသည်။ ထိုရွာတွင်အလယ်တန်းကျောင်း တစ်ကျောင်းရှိသည်။ ကျောင်းတွင် ကျောင်းသူကျောင်းသား (၂၀၀) ကျော်ရှိသည်။ ကျောင်းသည် ရွာလယ်တွင်ရှိသည်။ ကျောင်းအနီးတွင်အဆောက်အအုံတစ်ခုရှိသည်။ ကျေးရွာသမဝါယမဆိုင်ဖြစ်သည်။ ထိုဆိုင်သည် စားသောက်ကုန်များ၊ အိမ်သုံးပစ္စည်းများ၊ အဝတ်အထည်များနှင့် လယ်ယာသုံးကိရိယာများကို ရောင်းချသည်။

It is a large village. There are over 300 houses and about 1600 people. Most of them are farmers. There are also some fishermen. Most of the houses are made of wood and bamboo. They are neither too rich nor too poor. The best building in the village is the monastery. It is at the head of the village. There is a pagoda near the monastery. There is a state middle school at the village. It has over 200 boys and girls. It is in the centre of the village. We saw a building near the school. It is the village co-operative shop. It sells foodstuffs, household goods, textiles and farming implements.

ကျွန်တော်တို့သည် ထိုရွာမှညနေ(၄)နာရီခန့်တွင်ထွက်ခွာခဲ့ကြသည်။ ဦးလေးနှင့်ကျွန်တော်ညီဝမ်းကွဲများမြစ်ကမ်းသို့ လိုက်ပို့ကြသည်။ ကျွန်တော်တို့နှုတ်ဆက်သောအခါ သူတို့အလွန်ဝမ်းနည်းကြသည်။ အပြန်ခရီးတွင် ကျွန်တော်တို့ကိုယ်တိုင်လှေလှော်ခဲ့ကြသည်။ ကျွန်တော်တို့အလွန်ပျော်ရွှင်ခဲ့ကြသည်။ ကျွန်တော်တို့အိမ်ပြန်ရောက်သောအခါ (၆) နာရီထိုးနေပါပြီ။

We left the village at about 4 pm. My uncle and cousins saw me off at the bank of the river. They were very sad when we said goodbye to them. On our way back we rowed the boat ourselves. We were very happy. It was 6 o'clock when we arrived back home.

My ambition

Everybody has an ambition. Some want to be doctors. Some want to be engineers. Some want to be artists and some want to be wirters. But my ambition is to be a modern farmer.

Myanmar is an agricultural country. Her main product is rice. It is also our staple food. We also export it. So it is important to produce more and more rice from year to year. I want to be a modern farmer because I want to help increase production of rice and various other crops. Moreover, my father and uncles are all farmers. They want me to be a modern farmer. I am a student of the Yangon University (Botataung Campus). I am in my first year. I got good marks in my BEHS examination. I have worked very hard this year. I hope to pass the examination with flying colours. I will go on working hard next year. I believe that I will be able to join the Yezin Institute of Agriculture. There, we will have to study for four years. We will be taught modern scientific methods of farming and animal husbandry. We will also be taught Horticulture. We will also have to learn how to handle machines used in agriculture. We will also be required to do practical work of growing crops and vegetables. When we get our degrees, we will be given jobs.

I will go wherever I am sent. I will do my work with heart and soul. I will spread among the farmers the knowledge I have gained. I will set up a model farm and show the farmers how to grow special high-yield paddy and how to use chemical fertilizers and insecticides. I shall encourage them to take on livestock breeding on manageable scale.

ambition	ဘဝရည်မှန်းချက်
a modern farmer	ခေတ်မီလယ်သမား
staple	အဓိက
export	နိုင်ငံခြားသို့တင်ပို့သည်။
increase	တိုးပွားစေသည်
with flying colours	ဂုဏ်ထူးများနှင့်
modern scientific methods of farming	ခေတ်မီသိပ္ပံနည်းကျစိုက်ပျိုးမွေးမြူရေးနည်းစနစ်များ
animal husbandry	တိရစ္ဆာန်မွေးမြူရေး
Horticulture	သစ်သီးဝလံပန်းမန်စိုက်ပျိုးရေး (ဥယျာဉ်လုပ်ငန်း)
handle	ကိုင်တွယ်သည်
required	လိုအပ်သည်
crops	သီးနှံ
degree	ဘွဲ့
with heart and soul	စိတ်ရောကိုယ်ပါ
spread	ဖြန့်သည်
special high-yield paddy	အထူးအထွက်တိုးစပါး
chemical fertilizers	ဓာတ်မြေဩဇာ
insecticides	ပိုးသတ်ဆေး
livestock breeding	တိရစ္ဆာန်မွေးမြူရေး

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)



By Aung Kaung Sett Hein
3rd year medical student,
University Royal College of
Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin.

JANUARY, INTERNATIONAL CREATIVITY MONTH!



DID you know that January is the international creativity month? This first month of every year is set aside around the world to celebrate the uniqueness of creativity and marks a fresh start to addressing problems and improving our creative skills. It is important that we acknowledge the significance of creativity for developing innovative ideas, which runs across different sectors in a country, including economy, education, politics, healthcare, and so on. On the other hand, we need to unleash, harness, and celebrate our personal creativity, something that we, as human beings, were born with.

Taking an art class, cooking a new dish at home, or picking up a camera to do a vlog are a few examples of how this month can be celebrated. For me, writing a blog post or an article is a huge task of feeding one's own creativity. Besides, creating gifts for loved ones, and planning surprises for a friend's birthday, if there is any, are no short of creativeness. But first of all, how do we unlock our creativity?

Creativity comes in when we are not stressed, and when our thoughts are flowing with our minds at rest, and undistracted by anything. This is how productivity can triumph over procrastination and loss of focus. When we have started off by putting ourselves into the creative process, getting started in whichever direction is easiest is important instead of thinking the structure to them, for example, getting the first set of ideas down on a scratch paper! Walking, according to researchers from the Stanford university in 2015, can improve one's creative thinking, as in the fact that it can initiate or stimulate the first string of bright creative thoughts. It is no surprise why one of the famous global thinkers, Steve Jobs, was famous for his long walks to meetings.

It is a need to be not afraid of making mistakes when we explore our creative outlets. Otherwise, we can shy away from this process if we make being perfect a business or feel as though we are not good enough. If we know that we can amend ideas at a later stage, we can enjoy creativity boundlessly. Also, the environment that we put or find ourselves in can determine our extent of creativity. The lights of the room or the desk we work on can either promote or disrupt our creativity.

Sometimes learning from others and being inspired can help when we are depleted of creativity, whether that be watching videos and vlogs of Youtubers or surrounding ourselves with innovative people, as they can ignite our thinking-out-of-the-box skill. And something that should not be left out is reading novels, the process where we can explore not only the creative minds of authors but also those of characters that have been created. This can expand our knowledge database and imagination, which again fosters our creative thinking.

In this way, if there is anything that people are passionate about and have not started yet or are working on, this month is to motivate all of us to get it done. It is time that we started setting out on that plan that we have been promising ourselves, and this may probably require us to step out of our comfort zone, or to take an adventure. So, why don't we get ourselves to the work of creativity and also encourage our friends or even our grandmother at home to do something creative, just in time before this month ends?

Bears need urgent protection

By Nyi Tu



A Malay bear looking for fruits in forest.

AS part of efforts to conserve bears that are facing extinction due to hunting for their gall bladders and bile, conservationists carried out a survey to determine the bear population in the Htamanthi Wildlife Forest Reserve in northern Myanmar.

Malay bears and Himalayan bears are largely found in Myanmar, and both are included on the list of protected species.

Malay bears can be found in forests in the Rakhine and Shan mountain ranges, but the species is on the brink of extinction in other areas.

Conservationists from the Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar), with the assistance of the Segere Foundation, launched the counting of the population of Malay bears in the Htamanthi Wildlife Forest Reserve, using 120 trap cameras in late 2016.

"We planned to carry out the survey and research for four years. We have done it for two years, so far. According to the calculation following the survey, there are good prospects for the bear population," said U Zar Ni Aung, a conservationist who is conducting the survey of bears in the wildlife forest reserve.

The sanctuary is located on the eastern bank of the Chindwin River across from the town of Tmanthi. It lies within the Hkamti District of Sagaing Region, and covers 830.40 sq m, which is home to Indochinese tigers, Indian elephants, gaur (Asiatic bison), Indochinese leopards, serow, and bears. In all, over 30 mammals are found there.

Today, not only gall bladders and bile of bears, but also the remaining parts of the bears are in demand, leading to declining bear populations. The situation has resulted in the authorities stepping up efforts to prevent hunting.

In 2016, the Forest Department discovered the illegal breeding of bears in Lashio and rescued four bears. Authorities also seized bear parts in Kengtung in Shan State last year.

Another threat to bears are the shrinking living areas for bears.

Meanwhile, two endangered Himalayan Black Bears (also known as Asian Black Bears), were re-



The researchers study habitats of bears in the wild.

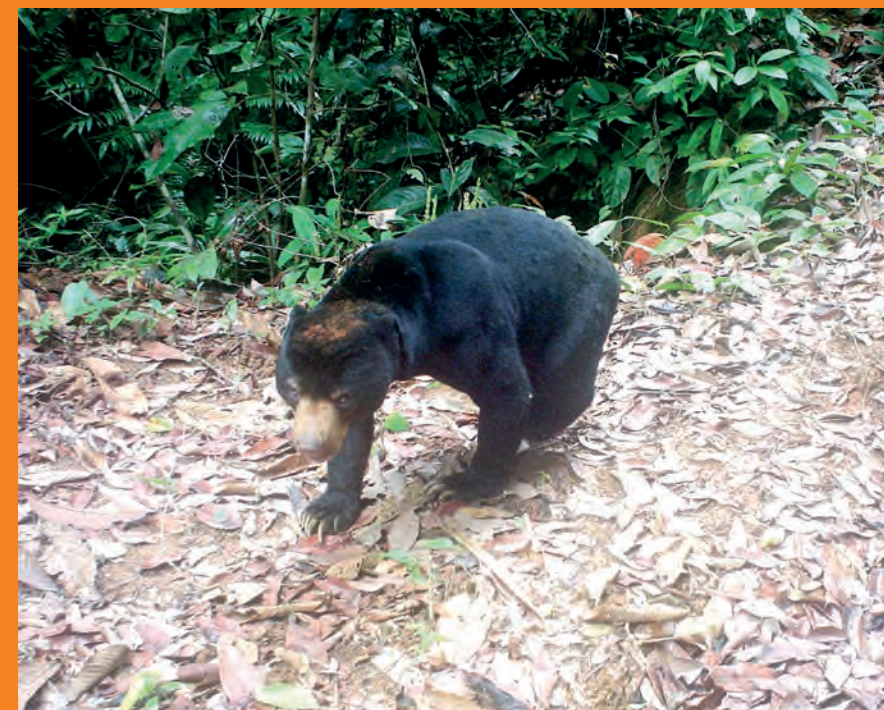
leased into the Nam Izuu area in the Htamanthi Wildlife Reserve in Sagaing District in August last year.

The two bears were later found near the India-Myanmar border after they strayed off the path to find food.

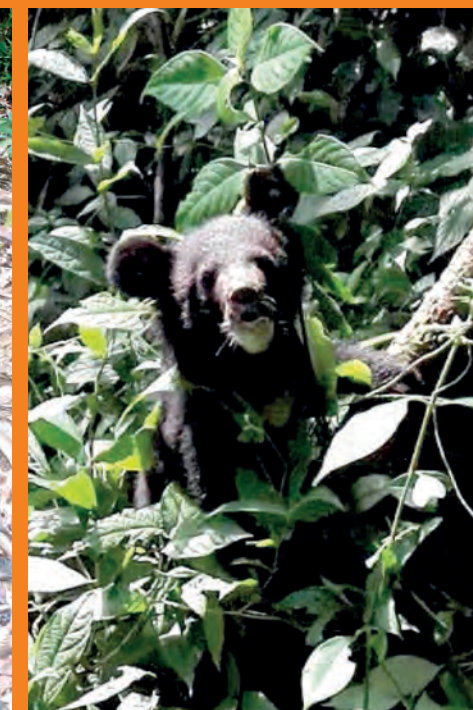
Just patrolling the Htamanthi Wildlife Forest Reserve does not mean the efficient conservation of bears will be conducted in Myanmar, as threats from poachers to bears still exists in other parts of Myanmar.

"All are responsible to conserve key species and umbrella species," said U Zar Ni Aung.

Translated by Gyaw Orwell



Malay bear was discovered in hidden camera trap at Htamanthi Wildlife Forest Reserve.



A bear in the wild.



A bear conservation researcher taking a record by using his GPS location track application.



Mutilated bear parts sold on the black market.

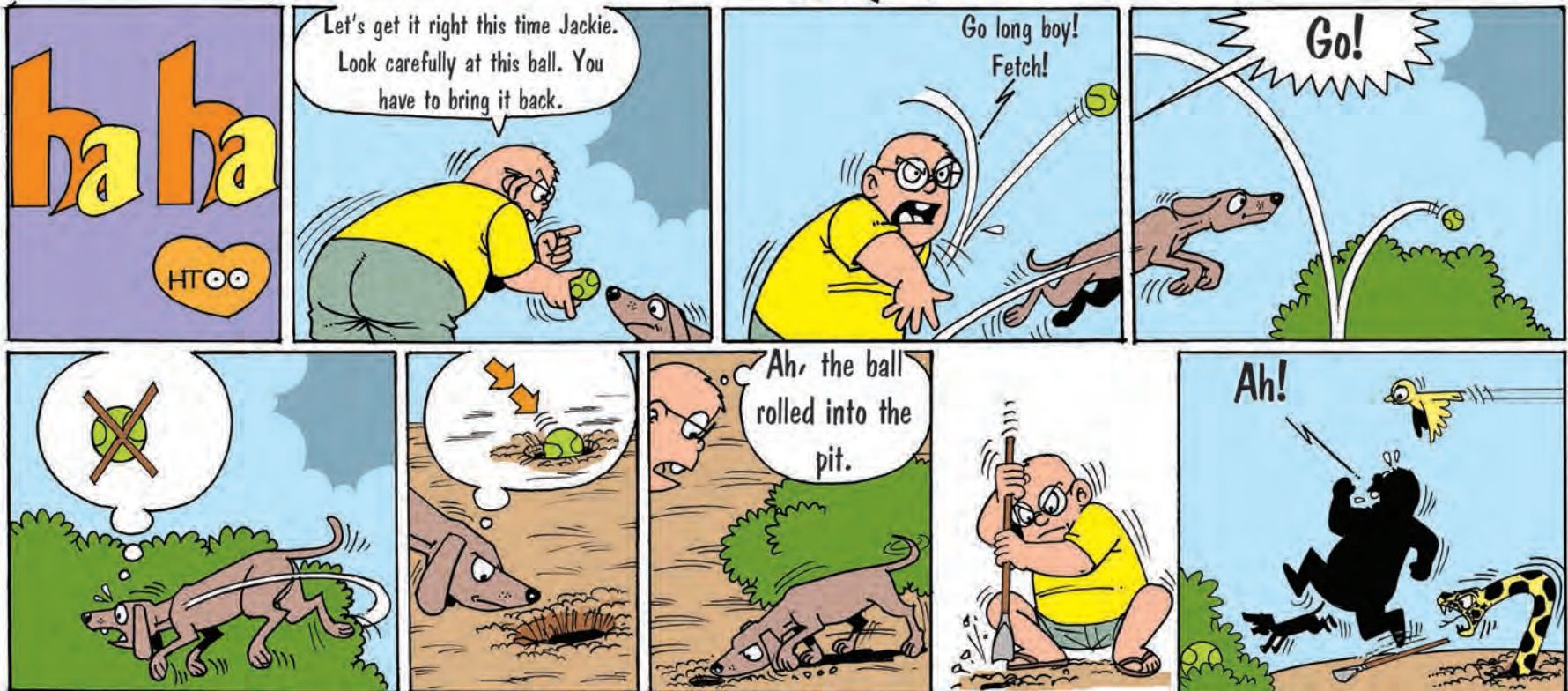


Forest rangers working in the Forest Reserve.



Conservationists embark on a boat trip along their journey.

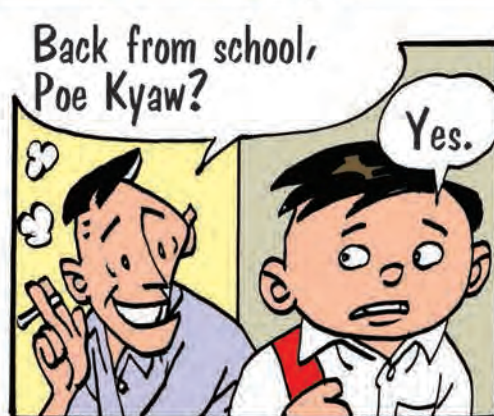
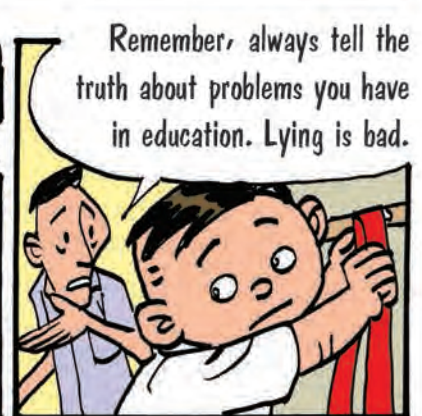
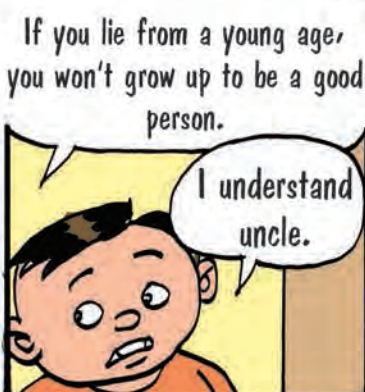
SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE
WILL BE
PEOPLE
Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY
JOKE
Cartoon
Maung Aung
2019





Ms. Moon
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I HAD a somewhat bitter experience when I was in Grade II.

Our mom never gave both my sister and myself the pocket money to school lest we would buy and eat something which would not suit for our health. She used to arrange for our snack which would be bananas, biscuits, dry cake, groundnut brittle or sesame brittle and the bottles of water. Therefore, our school bags were always swollen with the packages of snack and the bottles of water.

During the recess, we did not need to go to the snack stalls of the school. We just needed to unpack our snack and eat them. However, we wanted to enjoy the feeling of going to the snack stalls smart and buying what we liked. To say the truth, we hated the snacks that mom had prepared. How nice they were in taste, we did not want to eat them as we thought it might be a blunt style to eat what had been prepared by home.

We sometimes pestered our mom to give us pocket money. After asking against for the pocket money several times, we got one kyat note each as the pocket money. The children of nowadays will not understand the value of one kyat note. At that time, other classmates also got one kyat or two kyats for their pocket money. We did not get that money easily. It was received after listening mother's long lecture such as, "Buy and eat what"; "Don't eat what are with dye"; "Avoid what the flies rest on" etc. We showed our agreement on mom's lecture saying "Yes". But her lecture did not enter our heads since we did not understand the diseases mom had said such as diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis, jaundice etc. Instead, we thought mom was extremely worried about our health.

At the recess hour, we marched for the snack stalls of the school tightly grasping the one kyat note each. At the snack stall, there was always a crowded shop which owner's name was all called as 'Mummy Than'. Although his name was 'Mummy Than', he was tall, dainty

and enchanting man. His shop was the most crowded one there. We took place like other students in front of his shop interestingly displayed with the packs of plum jam, damson, Bouea burmanica, mango, sweet lime, toffee, candy and other foodstuff. We were going to buy snack and eat as we possessed our own pocket money.

The girl beside me picked one pack of snack and gave money to Mummy Than. We, then, gave money to Mummy Than with great composure but we could not yet know which snack we would choose. Our small and bright eyes were running about on the display of the snacks which seemed to make us craving for. We could not decide whether we would take the snack here or we would choose one there. In fact, we did not have any experience of self-helping. Therefore, we puzzled at that moment. At last, we decided and chose the snacks we like and left the shop with the pleased countenances.

"Hey, you two, give me cash for your snacks. You forget, don't you? You slip out like this, don't you? Does it OK to slip out?"

At first, we did not know to whom the voice referred to. So we had a glance and continued to walk as if it was not associated with us.

"Hey, you, two girls, I am telling both of you! Don't practise one-upmanship."

His voice became sharper and louder. In addition, only when the boy who was next to us pointed us and told that we are shouted by Mummy Than, we realized that we are being told. Then, we explained we had paid but Mummy Than insistently refused we had not paid. His face got red due to the anger show-

ing the one kyat notes that were already present in the small bag.

With loud voice, he shouted, pointing his index finger at us, "You both are like knobbed sticks. Don't try me like this. I am very experienced smart through much experience. I'll forgive you this time. Leave the snacks you had taken. Next time, I'll slap your cheeks and let the class teacher know."

We did not know how we left the snack stalls as we were very shy and nervous in our limbs. We wanted our bodies might be shrunk as small as the ants and melted to disappear under the curious looks of the students' eyes. We went to the banyan tree beside the football ground of the school and cried. I pleased my younger sister wiping her tears and we made an agreement not to let our mom know that case. It was certain that on the next days, our school bags would be full of books and prepared packs of snack and water bottles.

Twenty five years later, while I was on the night duty in a hospital, an emergency patient got to my ward. It was Mummy Than who once gave a nice lesson to us. He had not changed in appearance much except his gray hair and thinner figure. While I was examining what was needed for him, there was a deep prick in my chest. I immediately remembered the one kyat note event which was often thought and I decided not to happen like that again. In fact, he was not wrong but we are not just up to standard. We had to thank him for what he taught us practically as a valuable lesson. Was it worth more than one lakh or one hundred lakh investing only one kyat? That lesson always teaches us not to believe anyone until anything is in hand. It makes us strongly attached not to be in deeds and words until we are accomplished anything in hand.

A small snag that we had hit accidentally made us know a good sense to avoid the larger snags as soon as we first climbed the ladder of experience at the beginning of our lives.



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

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

IT is No. '13' that most people feel like avoiding. Friday the '13th' is believed to be the unluckiest day of a year. Hotels also lack '13th' floor since the twelfth floor ascends to the 14th floor with no floor in between them. The following incidents are the stories telling why the number '13' is considered unlucky.

1. '13' People at the Last Supper

Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus Christ was the '13th' person sitting at the dining table. Since then, it has been believed that if there were '13' people dining together, one of them would die within one year.

2. Norse Mythology

In one of the tales of Norse myths, an event of dinner was ruined by Loki, an evil spirit in the terrible way that Loki came to the dinner and oppressively blackened the entire atmosphere in there. Then, he brought it towards Balder, a god of death. Loki was the '13th' who arrived to the dinner.

3. The Abnormal Number

The number '12' bears the sense of perfection. Olympian gods number 12. The '12' is included in clocks and watches as well. There are also '12' months in a year and there are '12' astrological signs representing the houses of the zodiac. In Christianity, there are '12' followers of Jesus Christ. However, the number '13' is the odd one out.

4. '13'-alphabet Name

If a person's name is comprised of '13' alphabets, it is said to be under the influence of evil spirit. The murderer, Jack the Ripper, is also assumed to follow the lead of evil spirit.

5. Ladies Having Their Periods '13' Times Per Year

At times, what is believed tends to sound strange and superstitious. It is also said that the reason why most people are afraid of '13' is that ladies generally have their periods '13' times per year.

6. '13' Members at Witches' Conference

It used to be said in the olden days that there are '13' members at every witches' conference. The Moon has positive effect on the

witches' power and vice versa. There are '13' months in a lunar calendar for witches. For them, the number '13' refers to the sense of perfect potency.

7. '13' Gaits Towards the Gallow

As per a traditional custom, only '13' gaits are required for a person to take towards the gallows.

8. Friday the '13th'

There is a load of superstitions relating to Friday the '13th', which suggest that on that date, in particular, having hair cut, going past the cemeteries, walking under a ladder and so forth be avoided. No businesses usually start on this day, either.

9. Room No. '13' at Hotels

Most hotels do not have Room No. '13'. In London, Carlton even got rid of its '13th' floor. Some airplanes have also omitted the seats in the '13th' row.

10. Tuesday the '13'

Not only Friday, the '13th', there is a belief in Spain that Tuesday the '13th' also brings misfortune.

11. The Ancient Code of Hammurabi

The Code of Hammurabi is a well-preserved Babylonian code of law of ancient Mesopotamia, dated back to about 1754 BC (Middle Chronology). The codes of law are listed from 1 to 282. Among them, the '13th', '66th', and '99th' codes of law are missing.

12. Killing of Christian Martyrs

These martyrs risked their lives while protecting the cup believed to have been used at the Last Supper. The day they were executed is believed to be '13th' October, 1307.

13. Zoroastrian Rituals

Zoroastrian rituals foretell that by the year 13,000, the world will inevitably be in utter chaos following a brutally disastrous war. The good will then be beaten by the bad.

