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Keynote speech by State Counsellor at Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 is republished for increase public awareness.

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects embankment maintenance works in Nyaungdon



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and party inspect embankment maintenance work to prevent river bank erosion in Nyaungdon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

NATIONAL Natural Disaster Management Committee Chairman Vice President U Henry Van Thio accompanied by Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and departmental officials inspected embankment maintenance works to prevent river bank erosion in Ayeyawady Region Nyaungdon Town yesterday afternoon.

First, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and party were explained about embankment maintenance works to prevent river bank erosion in Nyaungdon town conducted yearly depending upon funds available and status of cooperation with Netherlands on this by Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Deputy Director General U Win Hlaing. Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung provided additional explanations.

Responding to the explanations, Vice President U Henry Van Thio said that the Ayeyawady Region was a region that had been facing natural disasters of flooding and inundation yearly. To mitigate and reduce damages, funds had to be allocated to clear and dredge dead or non-flowing rivers and creeks. He spoke about being in Ayeyawady Region in 2016 to provide relief and assistance when there were flooding and

inundation; the outcome of the mitigation and prevention works carried out since then may be seen now as reduction of losses from these natural disasters in 2018. The Nyaungdon Town embankment maintenance works was an important natural disaster prevention work and thus depending upon availability of funds works must be conducted on priority areas, said the Vice President.

Next, the Vice President and party inspected the em-

bankment maintenance works conducted along the river bank in Nyaungdon Town.

Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems had been conducting yearly embankment maintenance works in Nyaungdon Town since fiscal year 2017-2018. Of the total length of 6,250 ft. of embankment work, 1,575 ft. had been conducted and 4,675 ft. of embankment work remains to be done it is learnt. — MNA ■
(Translated by Zaw Min)



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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets locals, departmental officials, militia in Nagmon, Putao, Kachin State

TATMADAW Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing went to Nagmon, Putao District, Kachin State, and met with local elders, ethnic nationals, departmental officials and members of the people's militia yesterday afternoon.

First, the township administrator explained about particulars of Nagmon Township, status of road communications and requirements while a local elder submitted requirements for road communication in Nagmon region.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief then gave suggestions on regional development matters and left Nagmon Town by car and inspected the completed section of the Mag-

wayza-Khaunglanphu road.

Later in the evening the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief met with departmental officials and local elders from Putao District, ethnic national leaders, veterans and people's militia and discussed regional development matters; later, the ethnic national leaders, veterans, people's militia and departmental officials submitted regional requirements.

After the meeting the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, Union Minister and party presented food to local ethnic nationals, departmental officials and people's militia members according to news released by the Office of the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief. — MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with departmental officials and local elders in Nagmon, Putao District, Kachin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko receives Thai Minister for Culture

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko received a delegation led by Minister for Culture of Thailand Mr. Vira Rojpojanarat at Ministry of religious Affairs and Culture (Yangon Office) yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting matters relating to bilateral religious and cultural affair covering exchange of cultural university students, arranging exhibitions of the two countries' archaeology and cultural artifacts, joint study through holding discussions among librarians, historians

and experts from the two countries on historical facts of the two countries in which there were discrepancies and cooperation in maintaining and managing cultural heritages and world heritage regions were discussed cordially.

Present with the Union Minister at the meeting were Department of Archaeology and National Museum Director General U Kyaw Oo Lwin, National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) Rector and officials. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko holds talk with Minister for Culture of Thailand Mr. Vira Rojpojanarat in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

\$ 60,000 profits seen at single pond breeding shrimp in Myeik region



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu and party visit modern salt-water shrimp breeding station. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu visited a modern salt-water

shrimp breeding station owned by Khaing Zinyaw Co., Ltd. in Myeik District, Kyunsu Town-

ship yesterday morning. During a meeting with shrimp breeding farmers, officials from the township spoke of the requirements to move from catching fish and prawn in the sea to sustainable breeding, in order to prevent depletion of marine and aquatic natural resources. Officials said they hope to find private investors to create a Myeik region economic force to fund such a transition.

At the hall, the Union Minister was briefed by Department of Fisheries Director General U Khin Maung Maw on the requirements for practicing Good Aquaculture Practice (GAQP) to meet the standards and norms

of foreign markets, issuing recommendations, and provisions needed to obtain technical support from Norway

This was followed by salt-water shrimp breeders explaining about their current work and ways to increase investment.

In response to the briefing and explanations, the Union Minister remarked about including regional development works in conducting business, and to follow rules and regulations when permitted to perform business, along with the requirements to raise the quality of laboratories that inspect for quality and standards of shrimp, since the products

are for export. After the meeting, the Union Minister and party visited a modern salt-water shrimp breeding station, cold storage and soft-shell crab breeding facility at Pyae Phyo Tun Company Limited.

One million hatched shrimps bred in a shrimp pond can be harvested within 80 to 100 days, producing 20 to 25 tons of shrimp, resulting in a profit of about US\$ 20,000. By breeding three times a year per pond, there will be a profit of some US\$ 60,000. Since it is a business with potential in Myeik region, much interest has been raised.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Keynote Speech by the State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 held on 28 January 2019 at Myanmar Convention Centre 2 Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

(Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 jointly organized by Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER), Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), was held in Nay Pyi Taw at MICC-2 on 29-30 January 2019. On the first day of the Summit, the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a keynote address on investment matters in Myanmar at the opening ceremony. Her speech is republished for increase public awareness.)

Excellencies and distinguished guests,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2019 Invest Myanmar Summit and to see so many investors and business people, representing a wide range of industries, sectors, interest groups, and organisations, here with us today.

I am confident that this Summit — the first of its kind in Myanmar — will serve to highlight the immense opportunities available to both local and foreign investors and provide you with the opportunity to explore Myanmar's exciting and ever evolving investment landscape.

I am happy to note that, throughout our two-day event, Union and State and Region governments, together with our private sector partners, will be provided with an invaluable opportunity to showcase their respective investment prospects.

I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Summit organizers, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, who have worked tirelessly, in partnership with the Myanmar Investment Commission and the Directorate for Investment and Companies Administration, to make this event a success.

I hope all of you will find this event both fruitful and enjoyable and that you will take away happy memories that will serve to bring you back to Myanmar again and again.

[Historical Note]

Perhaps it might be worth noting that today's event is taking place on the birthday of King Yazadarit, ruler of the ancient Kingdom of Hanthawaddy Pegu, one of our most renowned monarchs. His reign, recorded in the classic text "Razadarit Ayedawbon", saw a range of ambitious administrative reforms, combined with the creation of peaceful conditions that helped to transform the ancient kingdom into a successful trading power. It was also on this day in



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the opening speech at the opening ceremony of Investment Myanmar Summit 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 January, 2019. PHOTO: MNA

1945, 74 years ago, that supplies began to reach the Republic of China over the newly reopened "Burma Road".

So we meet on a truly auspicious date, the birthday of one of our nation's foremost reformers, and also the day on which saw the culmination of a highly strategic infrastructure project which undoubtedly impacted on the course of World War II in the South-East Asian theatre.

[Why Myanmar?]

Ladies and gentlemen,

Why do we say 'invest in Myanmar'?

Myanmar's enviable geographical location makes us both a strategic market, as well as a crossroads between China, India, Bangladesh, Laos, and Thailand.

China, India and the ten

economies that make up ASEAN, of which Myanmar is a member, together represent a potential consumer market of more than 3.5 billion people. These same economies combined account for some US\$15 trillion dollars, or 20 percent, of our global GDP.

This market nexus is expected to evolve into one of the most dynamic and vibrant markets the modern world has ever seen. The McKinsey Global Institute predicts that by 2025 over half of the world's consuming class, that is, those with an income of more than US\$10 a day, will live within a five-hour air journey from Myanmar.

We have a sizeable population of 53 million, half of whom are aged 30 or below. Thus Myanmar also has a sizeable and expanding internal market which will surely benefit from greater

cooperation and integration with external markets.

As the largest country in mainland Southeast Asia, Myanmar not only possesses significant potential for agricultural production, we are also richly endowed with minerals and natural gas.

Myanmar's southern seaboard, when connected with Thailand's thriving Eastern Economic Corridor, creates one of the world's most strategic economic corridors, offering access routes to the Indian and Pacific Oceans via the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, as well as to the neighbouring economies of Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and, of course, China.

It is our firm belief that Myanmar has much to contribute by connecting regional markets to international trade routes, and in

so doing, we shall be able to play a major role in supporting the expansion of trade and investment throughout the Asia-Pacific region and indeed, throughout the world.

[Global/Regional Landscape and Scene Setting]

Ladies and gentlemen,

Just as Myanmar has undergone rapid social, economic and political transformations in recent times, our world has also been undergoing multiple, concurrent transformations.

Throughout the past forty years, our region has experienced the greatest surge of economic growth the world has ever seen. This rapid growth, within ASEAN and the rest of Asia, has spearheaded the creation of new trade relationships, spurred the invention of new technologies, and facilitated the movement of peoples, ideas, goods, services and capital in ways which in the past had never been thought possible.

Indeed, we live in an era in which Asia is rising, poised to shape the world. Consequently, economic integration, coupled with innovation, free trade, growing people-to-people connections and regional connectivity, presents Myanmar and our investors with vast opportunities.

With our advantageous geographical location, relatively low labour costs, and the enormous potential of our people, it is the best of times for grasping the opportunities that will arise as the global economic pendulum swings from West to East.

However, there are also challenges that must be overcome.

One key challenge for Myanmar will be to find ways and means of ensuring that we continue to benefit from this global and regional inter-connectedness, keeping in mind that less developed countries with weaker links to the global economy are at greater risk of falling further behind.

Keynote Speech by the State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 held on 28 January 2019 at Myanmar Convention Centre 2 Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

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We therefore recognize the urgent need for the public sector and the private sector, the primary engine of economic growth and job creation in Myanmar and a main driving force in favour of inclusive and sustainable development, to work closer together as we seek market-based solutions to many, but not all, of our development challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To understand Myanmar's contemporary investment landscape we must also seek to understand the broader forces at work.

The pursuit of market friendly economic policies, together with rapidly increasing regional cooperation and integration, have been highly beneficial for the Asia-Pacific region, allowing many of us to make a successful transition from low income, low growth to middle-to-high income, high growth. Myanmar seeks to do the same.

By our own choosing, today our country is more exposed to external market and political forces than ever before. On balance, Myanmar stands to gain from this exposure which brings with it the potential for new investment, new technologies and knowledge transfer. But that is not to say that we are immune from the less positive aspects of globalization. In today's hyperconnected world, when one economy so much as catches a common cold, many more are put at risk of contagion.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the global level, FDI in-

flows continued their decline in 2018, following a 23 percent decrease in 2017 from the previous year. The Asia-Pacific region has not been immune from this downward trend.

According to the latest available data, FDI inflows to the Asia-Pacific region have

advantageous geographical position.

[Myanmar Macroeconomic Forecasts]

Ladies and gentlemen,

In Myanmar we often say "collect the water while it is raining".

With new legislation in place, foreign investors are now permitted to hold up to 35 percent of shares in a domestic company without the company losing its categorisation as a local company.

stagnated slightly when compared with previous years. However, our region has remained a primary destination for FDI, accounting for 39% of global FDI inflows in 2017, a rise of 9 percentage points compared to 2016. Furthermore, developing Asia-Pacific economies were collectively the largest recipient region for FDI inflows worldwide in 2017.

Myanmar has also been a major beneficiary of intra-regional FDI, experiencing a 45 percent increase in FDI inflows. Evidence of this can be seen throughout the country; an example is the new manufacturing plant set up by Malaysia-based Kian Joo Group in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

There can be no doubt that Myanmar is benefiting from our

The most recent economic forecast provided by the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office suggests that Myanmar's economy is expected to grow by some 7.4 percent in the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, up from 6.8 percent during the 2017-18 Fiscal Year, and from 5.9 percent during the 2016-17 Fiscal Year.

We should also note that inflation is forecast to stabilise at 5 percent during the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year.

This is still higher than what we may have hoped for but it is a marked improvement on previous years. At its peak in 2015, inflation stood at 9.99 percent.

With these positive forces converging, both regionally and in Myanmar, now is the time for us to be bold and ambitious, and bold and ambitious we shall be!

[Major Myanmar Reform Efforts]

Ladies and gentlemen,

As a member of the global community of nations, the Government of Myanmar has confirmed our commitment to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To this end, we have developed a comprehensive social, economic and environmental policy reform agenda, the My-

anmar Sustainable Development Plan or MSDP, which provides a unifying and coherent roadmap for all future reforms.

Structured around 3 Pillars, 5 Goals, 28 Strategies and 251 Action Plans, the MSDP can be seen as the expression of our national development vision.

The MSDP is founded on a long-term vision: a vision of a peaceful, prosperous and democratic country. The MSDP also provides a detailed strategic planning matrix which will assist in the prioritisation, sequencing and implementation of strategic development and investment initiatives across all sectors, and across all our States and Regions.

The first goal focuses on peace and national reconciliation, with a focus on the achievement of political stability, while the second goal emphasises macroeconomic management, with a focus on the achievement and maintenance of economic stability, without which broader, multi-sectoral development cannot begin to materialise. Hence, the first and second goals are amongst those most critical for ensuring a strong foundation upon which all future development can be based.

The third goal relates to job creation and private sector growth, while the fourth relates to human capacity and social development, including the expansion of access to quality education and healthcare.

The fifth goal, natural resources management and environmental protection, is aimed at protecting not just our country but our planet, through sustainable environmental and natural resources management.

Directly relevant to today's event, Strategy 3.3 clearly notes our commitment to creating a favourable investment and business enabling environment. Thus we can say that what we are doing now here, is part of the implementation of our strategic planning DNA.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since this government came into office, Myanmar has been actively pursuing a range

of FDI liberalisation measures.

In recent years, we have undertaken a number of reforms, some major and obvious, some more subtle but, in their own way, equally significant. All are primarily focused on updating the regulatory and legal environment aimed at developing a market-based economy which targets inclusive economic growth. Necessary structural reforms have also been made to boost Myanmar's development through greater integration with the global economy.

These reforms have had a profound impact on Myanmar, fundamentally enhancing our investment environment.

[Investment Law]

One of the first major reforms was the introduction of the Myanmar Investment Law. Introduced in 2016, the Myanmar Investment Law offers investors a more transparent, more liberal and more protected investment environment, bringing our investment enabling environment further in line with international and regional agreements.

[Companies Law]

Then, in December 2017 we launched the new Myanmar Companies Law which came into effect in August 2018.

Under the old 1914 Myanmar Companies Act, a locally incorporated entity with any foreign shareholding was considered a foreign company in Myanmar. With new legislation in place, foreign investors are now permitted to hold up to 35 percent of shares in a domestic company without the company losing its categorisation as a local company. Changing this legal definition will allow foreign investors to undertake business activities that were previously restricted to companies fully owned by Myanmar citizens.

The new Companies Law has also been designed to offer greater protection for minority investors whom we expect will contribute to a considerable improvement in Myanmar's ranking in the Ease of Doing Business Index.

I hope that it is now obvious that Myanmar is committed to creating not only a favourable, but also a predictable, facilitative and friendly, investment environment.

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Major reform efforts have been complemented by the recent launch of MyCo, an electronic registration system through which companies can now be incorporated online, thus eliminating the need to physically wend your way to the registrar's office.

We are already seeing some results of this. During the 5 month period following MyCO's launch (1 August to 31 December 2018) some 8,400 new companies were registered online. Put in another way, the number of companies registered in just 5 months constitutes 10% of the total number registered during the last 30 years, from 1988 to 2018.

This is the type of progress we are determined to replicate and expand.

Further steps will involve migrating many other manual processes online so that investors will no longer need to go to a number of places to have their needs addressed.

[Retail Sector Liberalisation]

With the launch of the Companies Law, we have been able to open up new economic sectors to investment. For example, in 2018 this administration successfully opened Myanmar to wholly foreign-owned firms operating in the wholesale and retail sectors, a move which has attracted solid investor interest from Europe, Japan, South Korea and beyond.

[Education Sector Liberalisation]

We have also begun to liberalise the education sector, opening the way for 100 percent foreign-owned educational institutions, as well as locally owned schools and joint ventures.

[Thilawa SEZ]

As noted earlier, we have made tremendous progress with regard to the development of Special Economic Zones.

I am very pleased to report that the Thilawa SEZ has become a crowning success in a very short period of time, receiving a total investment of over US\$ 1.491 billion; this reflects the dollar value of those investments actually entering the economy

Investors from Japan, the United States, Germany, France, Sweden, Australia, China, India, Singapore, Thailand and Taiwan have invested in the Thilawa SEZ, and there are many more eager to enter Thilawa SEZ Zone B.

I am happy to be able to say that a single window system is already in use at the Thilawa SEZ,

and that it is providing a strong and positive precedent.

Future rollouts of similar systems elsewhere, starting with the Myanmar Investment Commission, are planned.

We also hope that recent discussions between Thailand and Myanmar, with support from China and Japan, will see a similar progress made at the Dawei SEZ in short order.

[CBM-NET and MACCS]

Other notable reforms that will be of interest to our investors are the development of an electronic payments and settlement system, the 'CBM-NET', and an electronic customs and cargo clearance system, 'MACCS'.

Our CBM-NET consists of a Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system, a central securities depository system, and a mechanised cheque clearing system which is connected to all banks within Myanmar. The CBN-NET converts the once-manual process of clearing and settling payments into an entirely electronic system, thus constituting an important step toward the modernisation of our banking system.

Likewise, our MACCS system now enables exporters and importers to apply for customs declarations and port clearances online. This system connects not only to major ports but also to several major land border crossings. The result has been shorter customs clearance times and greater efficiency gains overall.

[MIC Reform]

Importantly, the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC)

view to establishing simple, clear and predictable Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), together with a single-window approach to services delivery.

This single-window approach will go a long way toward addressing impediments faced by investors, while at the same time providing them with both pre- and post-investment services.

As Southeast Asia's final frontier market, we offer innumerable investment opportunities; investment opportunities are everywhere in Myanmar. Some are plain to see, others are waiting to be found.

[MIPP]

We recently launched the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) which aims to attract more than US\$ 200 billion through responsible and quality business over the next 20 years, facilitating Myanmar's transition to a middle-income country.

[New Ministry]

To help sustain this already substantial reform effort, on 19 November 2018 the Government established the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MoIFER). MoIFER has been mandated to address the needs of the State and its people, with a focus on facilitating

patient and innovative.

To assist investors in the process of identifying investment priorities in a more strategic, transparent and open manner, the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations have developed a Project Bank, a rolling databank consisting of major, transformative projects that have been screened,

path of the country, improving the ease of doing business, and maximising the potential benefits of foreign direct investment and its spillover effects in the domestic economy

We will continue to strive to improve the investment climate.

[Challenges Ahead]

But of course many challenges remain. For example, our infrastructure gap continues to constrain Myanmar's development potential.

Our energy potential has also yet to be fulfilled. Myanmar remains one of the world's least electrified countries, notwithstanding our natural gas and renewable energy resources.

Myanmar's ports must also be upgraded and expanded to meet growing demand.

Despite these challenges, or one may say because of them, business opportunities are abundant in proportion to the critical need for foreign direct investment. Thus, for investors, challenges can be turned into opportunities.

[Closing]

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is said that what is comfortable is rarely profitable. This is certainly the case when it comes to investment in frontier markets. As Southeast Asia's final frontier market, we offer innumerable investment opportunities; investment opportunities are everywhere in Myanmar. Some are plain to see, others are waiting to be found.

I stand here to reaffirm our commitment to continue our reforms and to build an investment friendly environment.

We only ask our investors to ensure that their investments are responsible, by incorporating environmental, social and governance factors into their investment and business undertakings.

So please do come to Myanmar, soak in an atmosphere brimming with opportunities, and witness our newfound economic vibrancy with your own eyes.

I wish all of you the very best as we go forward in our business-to-business engagements and also in our people-to-people relationships. We value the deep, genuine and mutually beneficial friendships that can bring peoples and businesses together for the benefit of all.

I wish you and this Summit every success.

Thank you.

<END>

I stand here to reaffirm our commitment to continue our reforms and to build an investment friendly environment.

has been reconstituted and is now under new management that will take forward the momentum of change and transformation. The new MIC management team is determined to turn Myanmar into a major regional trade and investment destination and has been urged to take a much more proactive approach to investment approvals.

The new MIC team is reviewing all processes, not only within the MIC itself but also within other government agencies, with a

an investment enabling environment, furthering regional cooperation initiatives, and enhancing the quality and effectiveness of Myanmar's cooperation and coordination with development partners and international organisations.

[The Project Bank]

Ladies and gentlemen,

Those who know Myanmar well will know that this country offers the possibility of immense returns to investors who are both

appraised and prioritised such that they are ready for implementation with the most appropriate source of financing, be it government budget, development assistance or even through private sector financing, by way of Private-Public-Partnership (PPP) mechanisms.

Our Project Bank is envisioned as an online one-stop-shop, where all information on projects designed to implement the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan can be easily accessed with a single click. In preparing these projects, the Government is prioritising appropriately balanced risk allocation between the government and the private sector, as well as the use of blended financing mechanisms to ensure the success of PPPs that are included within the Project Bank.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I hope that it is now obvious that Myanmar is committed to creating not only a favourable, but also a predictable, facilitative and friendly investment environment.

The World Bank acknowledged the positive change in Myanmar's investment climate brought about by these and many other reforms back in 2017 when we were granted the 2017 Star Reformer Award. But we cannot and will not rest on our laurels.

The Star Reformers Award was made on the basis of efforts made by the Government to usher in transformational investment policy and promotion reforms representing a significant shift in the development

Youth development centres, nursery schools in Tatkon Tsp provided with cash assistance by SWRR Ministry

THE youth development centre and self-reliant nursery schools in Tatkon Township, were provided with cash assistance by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided K 9342000 for the Kyauksaritgone Youth Development Centre, Ks 36 million for Da Hat Gone, Self-reliant nursery schools in Da Hat Gone, No. 1 Defense Manufacturing Factory, No.4 Defense Manufacturing Factory, Tatmadaw Medical Research Academy, No. 109 Infantry Regiment, No. 2032 Defense Aviation base nursery schools in Nay Pyi Taw, Ks 978,000 for

maternity wards in Kyauksayit-gone and Kinpondan (East) and, Ks Aung Myin Yeikthar villages, and Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Tint received the cash donation and extended his appreciation for the supply.

First, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement went to the Monastery in Kyauksaritgone village, Tatkon Township, where he met with officials, elders of the community and people. During the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said that the Ministry of SWRR is making concerted efforts in order to support the rehabilitation works and respond the damages caused by disasters at



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye donates cash to youth development centres and self-reliant nursery schools in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

soonest, in cooperation with the Union Government and Nay Pyi Taw Council.

Being a developing country like us, it is difficult to fulfill all the requirements of the people, and the Government is striving to serve the interests of the people. Cooperation is highly appreciated and philanthropic

works is a time-consuming and selfless works that have to make sacrifices.

He continued to say that he hoped for opening the maternity wards nationwide. The Ministry of SWRR is carrying out to provide more social pension to senior citizens monthly while supporting pregnant women and

mother with children under two years old.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party proceeded to the Thuzanakari and the Aye Myittar San Youth Development Centres, where they observed the daily routines of the children and presented toys to them.—MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

13th graduation, outstanding student award ceremony of MMU held in Yangon



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung presents Myanmar Shipyard Award gold medal to a Naval Architect graduate. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR Maritime University (MMU) of the Ministry of Transport and Communications held its 13th graduation and outstand-

ing student award ceremony at the university's convocation hall yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Trans-

port and Communications U Thant Sin Maung presented the RINA (Royal Institution of Naval Architects) Myanmar Shipyard Award gold medal, along with a cash prize of K 200,000, to Naval Architect major student Maung Kaung Pyae Wun, Hutchison Port Holding's (Hong Kong) Best Port and Harbour Engineer Student Prize gold medal and US\$ 1,000 to Port and Harbour Engineering major student Ma Mya Myo Myint Nwe, and Maersk Line Shipping Co., Ltd's Best Marine Electrical System and Electronics Engineering Student prize money of K 100,00 to marine electrical and electronic major student MaThu Thu Tun.

Similarly officials presented Japan's Yanmar Co. Ltd's Best Marine Engineer Student Prize gold watch to marine engineer major student Maung Sat Paing Hmu, Japan's Furuno Electric Co. Ltd's Best Nautical Science Student Prize to nautical science major students Maung Sai Nyi Nyi Lwin and Maung Tu Shan, Starhigh-Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd's Best River & Coastal Engineer Student Prize of K 500,000 to river and coastal engineer major student Ma Ei Phu Thwe, and Brilliant Marine Training Centre's Best Marine Mechanical Engineer Student Prize of K 300,000 to marine mechanical engineer major student Ma Su

Thae Phyu.

There were 461 graduates, consisting of 45 B.E. (Naval Architecture), 64 B.E. (Marine Engineer), 25 B.E. (Port and Harbour Engineering), 5 B.E. (River and Coastal Engineering), 29 B.E. (Marine Electrical Systems and Electronics), 24 B.E. (Marine Mechanical), 58 M.Sc. (Nautical Science), 6 B.Sc. (Nautical Science), 102 Postgraduate Diplomas, 2 M.E. and 101 Postgraduate Diplomas in Shipping Management graduated.

Myanmar Maritime University was established in 2002 and, to date, has produced 4,790 graduates.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Min)

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspects Printing Houses in Insein Township

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun attended the opening ceremony of Television Presenters Training Course, organized the Myanmar Television and Radio Broadcasters' Association, yesterday morning, at

the Myanmar Media Development Centre (MMDC), Junction Square, Yangon. Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, who is also the chairman of Broadcasting Governing Body – BGB) delivered an opening remark at the event.



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun addresses the Broadcasting Governing Body coordination meeting in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

In his opening remark, the Deputy Minister said that the event, organized by the Myanmar Television and Radio Broadcasters' Association was held for the first time, and which played a crucial role in fostering the Myanmar media development. As for our country, it is of paramount importance to emerge free and independent media creating democratic checks and balances. He added that our country has just undergone a democratic transition period and there may have many challenges, at the same time, there are many opportunities for development as well. When it comes to explanation about Myanmar's democratiza-

tion to the international communities, the Myanmar Media played a pivotal role for dissemination of information and this event would help overcome media challenges. Then Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun attended the Broadcasting Governing Body (BGB) coordination meeting (1/2019), at the Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) meeting hall, on Pyay Road, Yangon, where he met with the members of BGB and discussed media development and challenges faced in the media world.

In the afternoon, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspected the G.T.C Printing Press Factory, Printing and Publishing

Department under the Ministry of Information, where he met with the officials from the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education. Next he discussed the progress of the school textbooks in the 2019-2020 Academic Years. Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun urged the officials to publish the school text books with high quality and to publish it in a timely manner while maintain a safe work environment, to be vigilant of fire hazard, systematic layouts planning. Following this, he inspected the GTC, the Sarpay Beikman and the Aung San Printing Factory.—MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

World Wetlands Day celebrated in Inle Lake

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win addressed the World Wetlands Day celebration held at Nyaungshwe Township, Hupin Khaung Daing Hotel, Inle Lake yesterday morning.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister U Ohn Win noted that Myanmar has observed World Wetlands Day since 2012.

The theme of World Wetlands Day 2019 is "Wetlands and Climate Change." This year's theme reflects the ecological services provided by the wetlands, including the growing of food, cool temperatures, and their withstanding natural disasters.

World Wetlands Day was observed as a national level event alternatively in Nay Pyi Taw and Moe Yun Gyi Lake, and this year it is being observed, for the first time, at Inle Lake. At the same time, World Wetlands Day is being celebrated in Myanmar's Ramsar sites of Moe Yun Gyi



Union Minister U Ohn Win and officials pose for a documentary photo together with outstanding students.
PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THAN (TAUNGGYI)

Lake, Indawgyi Lake and Mein Ma Hla Island.

The aims of the celebrations are to educate the public about the benefits of wetlands and to participate and become involved in wetland preservation, management and the wise uses of

them. Wetlands store water for agricultural lands, improve soil, clean refuse or waste waters, balance extreme weather conditions, and provide habitats for birds and other species that prey on insects that harms agriculture.

The national level wetland list has been prepared, in cooperation with the Norway Environmental Agency. The strategy to designate the Ramsar wetland area and Moe Yun Gyi Ramsar Wetland Management Plan were drawn up, along with programs

for staffs on maintaining and protection of wetlands, said the Union Minister.

Also, Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Linn Htut spoke of his appreciation for holding the 2019 World Wetlands Day ceremony in Shan State Inle Lake, as the state will develop only when lakes, ponds, rivers, creeks and dams are cared for.

A video of Inle Lake Wildlife Sanctuary was shown at the celebration, followed by Union Minister U Ohn Win and State Chief Minister Dr. Linn Htut presenting prizes to students who won the World Wetlands Day essay competition. An official from the Forest Department then presented a document certifying Inle Lake as the Ramsar Wetland area to the Shan State government and was accepted by state minister for natural resources and environment Dr. Nyi Nyi Aung.—Maung Maung Than (Taunggyi) ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

UDM (Ygn) confers degrees upon 225 graduates

THE University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) held its 41st graduation ceremony at the Convocation Hall of the Yangon University yesterday.

UDM conferred degrees to

225 graduates at the 41st graduation ceremony.

The UDM awarded specialist degrees to seven graduates, MDS degrees to 28 graduates, generalist degrees to 13 graduates, BDS

degrees to 177 graduates.

Rector of the University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) Prof. Dr. Shwe Toe awarded the degrees to the graduates.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Students from Yangon University get best awards at 4th YICMG

STUDENTS from Yangon University have recently been awarded as the best teams for two projects at the 4th Youth Innovation Competition on Lancang-Mekong Region's Governance and Development (YICMG) held at Royal University of Phnom Penh in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 22 to 26 January.

A total of 57 students, making up 19 teams from six countries in the Mekong region, including 3 student teams from China, 4 from Myanmar, 3 from Laos, 3 from Cambodia, 2 from Thailand

and 4 from Viet Nam, took part in the competition. Under the title "Green Consumption and Green Production," different projects were entered at the 4th YICMG. The team with three first-year honor students from Yangon University, Mg Oak Soe Kyaw, Ma May Myat Noe Oo and Mg Zwe Htet, was presented "The Best Project for Incubation Team Award" for "Development of a Hybrid Solar Dryer." The aim of the project is to create a vocational business for local people in the Mekong region, using grain

dryers that can be operated with solar and biomass power sources.

Another team, led by Yangon University's M.A chemistry student Ma Khaing Phyu Phyu Thant, and included two students from Viet Nam, also won "The Best International Team Award" for the "Green for Future Website." The Youth Innovation Competition on Lancang-Mekong Region's Governance and Development -YICMG 2019 is a programme organized by Fudan University in the People's Republic of China (PRC). Since 2016, the programme has been held twice a year and seen participation by students from six countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region.

A total of 12 students from Yangon University, 3 Physics specialization students, 6 Chemistry students and 3 Industrial Chemistry students representing Myanmar took part in the 4th YICMG.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



PHOTO: MNA

Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson departs from Yangon



Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson Rosario Manato (second from left) departs from Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson, Ambassador Rosario Manato, left Yangon yesterday morning.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has formed an Independent Commission of Enquiry, as part of its national initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine State.

The Chairperson was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Strategic Studies and Training Department Deputy

Director-General U Zaw Phyo Win, the Deputy Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Zaw Tun Oo and other officials.

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

Democratic politics and the role of Hluttaws

THE concepts of constructive thoughts, words and actions have deep meaning in the world of democratic institutions. The modern world is using the word 'democratic politics' but the truth is politics was not customarily promoted under authoritarian regimes. Indeed, they were submerged, suffocated, and subdued with the use of oppressive and sometimes deadly force. True politics is when there are mechanisms and infrastructure in place that allow the people to elect politicians who will represent them and take responsibility for their welfare. As such, since this system bases itself on the will of the people, the political landscape will be diverse and inclusive only if democracy is allowed to thrive.

In the politics of a democratic system, the representatives of the people are elected from candidates who receive the majority of votes and public support. The parliament (Hluttaw) composed of these representatives play the most important and prominent role in the nation, in addition to being the most accountable pillar

of democracy. After all, isn't it the Hluttaw that mainly organizes the presidency and the executive pillar?

This is why the people's representatives, who have also become Members of Parliament (MPs), are entrusted with the most vital and prominent responsibilities to the people of the nation.

Now that we have explained the significance of being an MP, and the heavy duties and consequences that come with it, it should be clear that the prospective MP should be mindful of their thoughts, words and actions and steer them towards constructive efforts lest they be branded ill-mannered.

To be suitable for assuming these responsibilities,

every politician needs to put his or her self-interest last and the collective benefit of the people first. Furthermore, they must be ever alert to the voice of the people, understand what their needs and wishes are, and how to best fulfill them. You cannot be a good representative for the people if you are clueless as to how to solve their problems and needs.

Likewise, no matter how skilled a politician may be, they need to earn the trust of the people and be assigned the task of representing them through their own volition. You cannot be a good representative without the support of the very people you choose to represent.

Every nation needs capable and trustworthy MPs to represent the people but it is our belief that our nation needs them now more than ever. MPs sitting in the Hluttaws need to acquire the foresight and wisdom to look to the benefits of the constituents who elected them in tandem with the benefit of the entire country.

We urge MPs and politicians alike not to shut their eyes and assume that their own ideas and notions are correct. We believe MPs must learn to understand the different perspectives of others and strive to implement decisions that will support and flourish the socioeconomic benefits of the country and its people.

■■■

MPs sitting in the Hluttaws need to acquire the foresight and wisdom to look to the benefits of the constituents who elected them in tandem with the benefit of the entire country.

People's hopes emerge from strength inspired by Union Day

By Dr. Myat Moe

CHRONICLE of Myanmar shows many auspicious days in the country, and that the Union Day is embedded with full of meaning and essence which falls on February 12.

72nd Anniversary of Union Day

Living our lives in our own ways in harmony and unity for many centuries, and now that all the nationalities are longing to reunite and come together again, and therefore looking for a way out in quest of peace.

Fighting against the imperialists and the Fascists, the whole country was exceptionally united for decades, and eventually regained the independence without discrimination with the frontier areas and the flat lands.

Despite the conspiracy of the imperialists, all the nationalities residing on the hilly regions never ever believe the deceitful plans, and that the representatives of the nationalities dashed towards Panglong legendary town and signed the agreement creating the Union Day which is on the dot of (72) anniversary.

Leadership Role

Needless to say that it is time to celebrate the Union Day with more meaningful, significant and determined approaches for the unity of the nation. At this juncture, we all must seri-



71st Union Day celebration was held in Panglong where Panglong Agreement was reached on 12 February 1947.

ously emulate and follow the concept and outlook of Bogoyoke Aung San who showed the role model of leadership.

Leadership role based on honesty and sincerity laced with wisdom is very much helpful and supportive to the nationalities, the ethnic armed organizations, and the political parties. On the long journey towards national reconciliation and internal peace, the role of the self-sacrificing leadership is very much essential.

Essence of objective

Entire people are desirous to have the unity with genuine essence in celebrating the Union Day, and living in weal and woe is the outlooks and attitudes.

People wanted the Union agreements through consideration at the earliest, and that the peace process and the socio-economic development should be reflected in equal opportunity.

The successful implementation of the objectives is the way out in solving the predicaments of the nation and it man-

ifests the strength.

Necessary to build the trust

Disunity starts with the loss of trust, and therefore, the trust building is the only solution to acquire peace and band into a genuine Union.

72nd Anniversary of Union Day National Objectives reflect the emergence of Democratic Federal Union; the national reconciliation; and all round development.

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 Panglong and thence till the success of the internal peace process.
4. All union nationals to co-operate and work in "Unity

and Harmony" that is for rule of law in the nation, and for the people to be secured and free from danger.

5. All union citizens to be able to enjoy good education and adequate health care protection.

Peace and Stability

Only when the whole country is in peace and stability, we could build a prosperous community, and that the current and existing circumstances must be reviewed with seriousness.

As the government, the Hluttaws, the Tatmadaw, the nationalities, and the people are the main pillars of the country, they should exchange their views more and it is the proper time to fulfill the expectations of the people.

An opportunity for internal peace

This is the right time for the government, the people, the Hluttaws, the Tatmadaw, the political parties, the ethnic armed organizations, and the civil societies to exert the utmost efforts

for unity and walked on the development road.

People are very much worried and in anxiety over the disunity and internal conflicts, but the ceasefire agreements have offered the chance for internal peace.

Temporary conciliation is the stride for the greater good of eternal peace, and therefore, all stakeholders and organizations must extend more flexibility and moved ahead for comprehensive ceasefire for the sake of building federal democracy union through peace conferences.

Basic ideology of democracy

All the people are desirous to build a healthy human society, and that the miscellany, mixture and medley could be used as diversity of democracy in the nation building. We must keep in mind that the diversity of ideas must never be allowed for antagonism as it might ignite the terror and nightmare. We must

While there are more important issues to be taken up, We must discard pessimistic views and absorb optimistic ideas so that solid milestones of achievements could be achieved. For the pragmatic development, all the stakeholders must participate in the process, and that finger pointing for blames must be avoided.

The advantages and weaknesses of each side should be weighed and diverted into good results. The intended goals and destinations are to be followed with audacity and courage.

Each and every organization must always keep their peace door open with trust and cooperate with each other closely in finding the solutions and overcome the difficulties.

In quest of peace, it is necessary to have the power of negotiation such as that to have patience, to have good benevolence, to have better listening mind-set, and to reduce mis-

We must discard pessimistic views and absorb optimistic ideas so that solid milestones of achievements could be achieved.

avoid racial tension and racial discrimination in the country.

Positive expectation

Over the years, the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong has resulted with agreements combined in optimistic and affirmative views paving the way for positive expectation that we must embraced in time. The agenda and time frame for peace conferences are the expectation of the people.

Moreover, the special meetings and the official meetings must be supplemented with informal and unofficial meets so that wide ranging issues and subjects could be taken up at these meetings more often which happened to be the expectation of the people.

Power of negotiations

trust, and eventually gaining the status of win-win situation.

In wrapping up the article, the people and all the nationalities are desirous in creating a matured and stable Union through the peace process. People accepted the diverse ideas and varied opinions, but people are afraid of split stories and scared of hatred and tension. They dislike the environment with the dogmatism, racism, grouping, discrimination, prejudice, and one sided thinking.

All these obsession and deep-seated feeling must be discarded so as to build trust and join hands in practicing the democratic norms with the deserving fine characteristics for the better development of the upcoming generation and the greater good of the nation.

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 Panglong 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 2nd February, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 3rd February, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and isolated in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, 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: Decrease of night temperatures in Upper Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3rd February, 2019: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3rd February, 2019: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3rd February, 2019: Fair weather.

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New bridge to be built near Goteik viaduct

A new four-lane section of the Mandalay-Lashio-Muse motor road will be constructed, along with a bridge near the Goteik viaduct, after completing payments for land compensation, said U Thet Swe, head of the road and bridge construction section of the Oriental Highway Company.

The Mandalay-Lashio-Muse section of the Union Highway is very dangerous because there are many sharp winding narrow bends. Therefore, a project to build a wider and better road, with a new bridge near Goteik viaduct, will soon be carried out by the Oriental Highway Company. The project will be implemented within three and a half years. Currently, the State government has to pay compensation to a remaining 16 land owners from Nawngkhio Township and 10 land owners from Kyaukme-Township, out of over 300 local land owners.

"The State government has paid 90 per cent of the compensation to land owners. We are not sure when the project will start. The nylon asphalted road will exist four-lanes. Currently, the road sees many



A new four-lane section of the Mandalay-Lashio-Muse motor road will be constructed, along with a bridge near the Goteik Viaduct. **PHOTO: SUNSHINE**

traffic jams, as well as road accidents. Upon completion of the project, the road will have a better surface and fewer sharp, winding bends, with the potential to reduce traffic congestion and road accidents," he added.

The new road will be connected to the new bridge, which

will be built near Goteik Viaduct. The new road section is located between milepost 72/5 at Nawngkhio entrance gate and milepost 92/5 at Naung Pain village. The cable steel bridge will be 887 meters long and stand at over 100 meters high.

This is a large infrastruc-

ture project on the Mandalay-Lashio-Muse section of the Union Road, which is a significant border trade route. As a consequence, the new road section will ensure a better flow of goods transported between China and Myanmar, once it is completed.—Khine Satt Wai (Translated by Hay Mar)

Roads used by illegal loggers in Bago Yoma destroyed

AUTHORITIES are destroying roads used in illegal logging operations in Bago Yoma. These roads run in parallel to the three roads crossing Bago Yoma.

"The authorities are cracking down on the illegal logging cases. The illegal timber extractors build the new earthen roads to do illegal logging. That's why these earthen roads are being destroyed. We confiscated the machinery and motor vehicles used in constructing these roads," said U Zaw Oo, director of the Forest and Natural Environmental Conservation Department in Bago Region.

Officials from Bago Re-

gion's forest department are searching for roads used in illegal logging, and have since found a bulldozer and a tractor near Tayaw creek, east of Padauk Kaw village, Myauk Na Win forest reserve, in Pauk Khaung Township. The police also arrested four machine operators.

The Bago region forest department will destroy those earthen roads constructed in parallel to the motor roads between Ottwin-Paukkhaung, Myo Chaung-Sein Kant Lant and Kopin-Tagara.

Between December 2018 and 28 January 2019, the department confiscated 1,212.291 tons



The authorities seize illegally harvested timber. **PHOTO: TIN SOE (BAGO)**

of illegal timber and arrested 59 offenders. The department also confiscated 20 vehicles, one motor vessel, 15 motorbikes, one bulldozer, one tractor, two

three-wheel motorbikes, saw mills, hand saws and other items used in illegal logging.—Tin Soe (Bago) ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

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

Two killed, five injured in drowsy driving in Madaya

TWO men were killed while five others were injured on Saturday morning when a vehicle overturned after drowsy driving on the Mandalay-Mogkok road in Madaya Township, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Region.

An AD Van, carrying the

driver and six passengers, and being driven by Chit Oo Maung, 35, of Singu Township, rolled onto its side in a ditch after colliding with a tree between milepost 13/4 and 13/5 near the south of Wathonedara Village on 2 February

Following the accident, the driver was taken to hospital by ambulance, where he was pronounced dead. U Htun Zaw, 45, a passenger travelling with him, died at the scene of the accident. The remaining passengers sustained injuries and are receiving

medical treatment at Mandalay General Hospital.

Police have filed a case against the careless driver, according to the Penal Code.—Sow Kyaw Thu Htwe (Madaya) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh increases

THE value of the border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh, as of 25th January, reached US\$ 13.7 million, an increase of \$ 3.6 million compared with the same period last year, according to statistics provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1st October to 25th January, trade through the Maungtau gate reached \$ 10.92 million, while trade from the Sittway border point was valued at \$ 2.78 million. Commodities are delivered principally by sea. Border trade between the two countries is conducted through the Sittway and Maungtau cross-border trade camps. 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 the last 2017-2018 FY. Marketable items at the Myanmar-Bangladesh cross-borders include bamboos, 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, beverages and human hair.

The total border trade of Myanmar with her four neighboring countries reached \$2.74 billion in the 2019-2019 fiscal year.—Zwe ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)



Workers carry sacks of ginger at the cross border trade camp. PHOTO: HEIN HTET LIN

Muse trade likely to continue downward trend

SINO-Myanmar border trade through the Muse checkpoint is likely to continue its slide owing to tight confiscation and trade suspension by China before and during the Chinese New Year Festival. Muse is the major border gate in Myanmar and performs the largest volume of trade. The gate witnessed a steep drop in trade of US\$614.7 million between 1 October and 25 January in the current fiscal year compared with the corresponding period of the 2017-2018 FY.

Over the three-month period in the 2018-2019 FY, the value of trade at Muse gate was pegged at \$1.31 billion, with exports worth \$735 million and imports valued at \$582 million. In the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, trade at Muse gate totalled \$1.93 billion. Since October 2018,

trade at Muse has been declining owing to tight confiscation and trade suspension by China, coupled with closure of the border gate. Myanmar conducts border trade with China through the Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete, and Kentung gates. The Sino-Myanmar border trade stood at \$1.31 billion at Muse, \$53.8 million at Lweje, \$208.8 million at Chinshwehaw, \$53.34 million at Kanpikete, and \$1.15 million at Kentung in the October-January period.

Myanmar exports rice, sugar, pulses, sesame seeds, corn, dried tea leaves, fishery products, minerals, and animal products to China, while it imports agriculture machinery, electrical appliances, iron and steel-related materials, raw industrial goods, and consumer goods.—GNLM ■

Capital goods imports down almost \$180 mln in current FY

MYANMAR'S importing of capital goods during the current fiscal year 2018-2019 reached nearly US\$1.9 billion, registering a decrease of \$179 million compared with the corresponding period in the last 2017-2018 FY, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

From 1 October through 25 January this FY, the private sector's importing of capital goods was valued at some \$1.6 billion, which saw a decline in value by \$240 million. However, the import of similar products by the public sector increased to \$300 million from the last FY's total of \$239 million.

According to the minis-

try's annual statistical report, Myanmar imported capital goods amounting to \$3.5 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September). During the last fiscal year, its imports of the same totalled \$6.59 billion.

The country's annual import of capital goods included \$6.9 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$8.25 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$8.03 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$5.69 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$3.8 billion in the 2012-2013 FY and \$3.7 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

Myanmar conducts international trade with ASEAN members, European Union member states, island nations, Asian and

African states, as well as some western countries. The country mainly imports four groups of commodities, including capital goods, manufactured goods, consumer products and CMP raw materials.

During the October-January period, the country also imported semi-finished goods worth \$2.127 billion, consumer goods worth \$1.085 billion and CMP raw materials worth \$730 million. Myanmar's total imports exceeded \$5.8 billion, as of 25 January, decreasing by over \$200 million, as against this time during the last fiscal year.—Shwe Khine (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin) ■

Mandalay Region earns over K27 bln in revenues this fiscal year

THE Mandalay Region Internal Revenue Department expects to receive revenues of K157 billion for the 2018-2019 financial year, taking in over K27 billion, or 17 per cent of its target, as of mid-January, said U Aung Kyaw Soe, head of the department.

"The department collected K46 billion in revenue from taxpayers during the 2018 mini-budget period between April and September. It expects to collect 80 percent of revenues, as of this March.

The revenue authorities are putting forth continuous efforts to reach their target, raising awareness about taxes amongst the

general public," he said.

Annually, the revenue collection target is set by the Union government.

Early in this FY, the Mandalay Region collected K12 billion in income tax from its target of K72 billion, K7 billion in commercial tax from the target of K59 billion, K2.4 billion in special commodities taxes from the target of K9 billion, K2.3 billion worth of stamp duty from the target of K11 billion and K1.5 billion in state lottery taxes from the target of K5 billion.

U Aung Kyaw Soe said that the department saw a decline in revenues from gold trading in the past mini-budget period.

Revenues from gold trading have increased nearly three-fold following a meeting between revenue authorities and gold traders. This was successful thanks to the department's attempts to raise awareness about taxes.

The Internal Revenue Department is collecting five types of taxes, including income tax, commercial tax, special commodities tax, stamp duties and the state lottery tax.

The department continues its efforts to conduct awareness raising activities and seek new taxpayers.—Khine Hset Wai ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

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Nga Wun Bridge (Laymyethna) inaugurated

NGA WUN BRIDGE (Laymyethna) in Laymyethna Town, Hinthada District, Ayeyarwaddy Region was inaugurated yesterday. This Nga Wun Bridge is situated over the Nga Wun River, on the road of Hinthada-Taluhtaw-Laymyethna – Khattu – Pann Taw Gyi. This Bridge was organized and constructed by Bridge Special Unit (16), Bridge Construction Department Unit (4) under Ministry of Construction. The length of the bridge is 1968.6 feet and width of 24 feet, with 2 feet width of pedestrian road. The type of Bridge is Steel Box Girder, plate Girder and R.C Girder with a riverine route height of 20 feet and width of 174 feet. The bridge can carry 75 tons per vehicle and the total cost of the construction was over 1 thousand million Kyats.

Nga Wun Bridge is the center point of Pathein-Monywa Road in the western side of Nga Wun river. The first entrance is Sone Kon Bridge which crosses Nga Wun River over Hinthada-Taluhtaw- Sone Kon –Inngapu to Pathein-Monywa Road. The second entrance is Nga Thaung Chaung Bridge situated on Yay Kyi- Nga Thine Chaung- Thet Kel Pyin Road and this newly constructed Nga Wun Bridge is the third entrance.

Ngawun Bridge brings new life

In the past, Laymyethna was not easily accessible by road



In the past, Laymyethna Town had restricted road and communication access, but since the new bridge has been built all residents are grateful for the open access in four directions. **PHOTO: THAN OO (LAYMYATHNAR)**

road but since the new bridge has been constructed, all local residents are grateful for all the open access in four directions.

“After hearing the joy of local residents through social media channels such as Facebook and Viber, all distant Laymyethna local, including myself, wish to run back to our hometown.

While I’m longing for my hometown, our ward’s community hall opens Vocalist Anaing’s “Nge Phaw” song, which was a very famous song back in our childhood, and while reminiscing my childhood, my friend from Laymyethna called at 8 in the

morning,” said a local from Laymyethna working in Nay Pyi Taw. On 1st December, local people, bicycles, trishaws, motorbikes and mini cars used the bridge temporarily.

“My friend phoned me to come back my home town to witness the new bridge. After receiving his call, I feel sudden longing in my heart,” he said.

“Crossing the other side of river with a small boat with much difficulties to reach to offices and schools, while the water in the river rises, would be an unforgettable memory. And people would be willing to see this Nga

Wun Bridge and try to cross on the bridge. All local residents are thankful to those who put all their efforts into constructing this bridge,” he added.

Addition to this, roads adjacent to this bridge had been renovated and Htu Par Yone pagoda, which was left in the old city, was being protected from erosion of water by a river bank project under 2017-2018 division budget.

The new bridge shortens the travel hours between local villages and Yangon.

Day trips from local villages to Yangon

“The local people can go

day trips from Yangon to Myay Myin Kon Village, which was the birth place of Pahtama Htut Khaung Sayadawgyi,” he said. It is a great chance now to go visit the pleasant village of Sayadawgyi as the bridge has completed the construction.

Sadu Mukha Htupay-one Pagoda, founded by the First Myanmar Founder King Anawrahta in Myanmar calendar year 420, renovated by Ah Laung Min Tayar Gyi in the year 1115 is located in Laymyethna.

— Than Oo
(Laymyethna)/ Translated by HYME

Ten men arrested for extortion, claimed they were news media from Nay Pyi Taw



TEN MEN were arrested on 31 January for extorting money from local charcoal makers in a forest in Padaung Township, Pyaw District, according to local police.

The arrested men, led by Zeyar Lin, also known as Hlaing Htay from Pobbathiri Town-

ship, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, claimed to be members of the news media from Nay Pyi Taw and took photos of charcoal makers’ huts in Kyaukphu Forest Reserve in Padaung Township on 30 January. Later, they destroyed utensils inside the huts and threatened

the charcoal makers, saying they would tell authorities about the making of illegal charcoal.

Following the threats, they were paid K200,000 and left the area. On 31 January, the same group also took photos of a business for making bamboo charcoal and de-

manded money to remain silent. However, a brawl erupted when they asked for money at the next hut.

Police were then called and detained those involved. During the police interrogation, the so-called members of the news media confessed that they had extorted K1 million from a charcoal maker in the same area five days earlier.

Police also learned that Zeyar Lin was wanted by police for cheating others out of K3.6 million in Thayawady.

Police have since opened a file against the ten men at the Thayawady Myoma Police Station. — MNA

Police restores normalcy in Thayet after quarrel

Due to a timely response by the police force an quarrel that occurs at about 6:30 p.m. on 1 February in Thayet town between drunk revelers returning from a football match and a car owner, whose car window was smashed while parked in front of his teashop was put under control with 16 persons treated at District People’s Hospital outpatient department. All except two, a man and a woman remained at the hospital undergoing treatment.

Peace and tranquility had returned to Thayet and the car owner was learnt to have opened a case at Thayet Myoma Police Station for the car window being smashed.

District Police Captain Maung Maung Zaw of Thayet District Police Force said the incident the day before was not a religious conflict as some people say. It is an altercation between drunken revelers returning from a football match and a car owner. Now everything is under control and we are continuing to monitor the situation, said the Police Captain. — District IPRD

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Thai forest rangers train to tackle wildlife crime

NAKHON NAYOK (Thailand)—Camo-clad rangers ambush a camp in a lush Thai national park, kicking away a machete and a firearm and pinning two suspected poachers to the ground—part of a training exercise to counter a lucrative wildlife trade.

“Go!” team leader Kritkhajorn Tangon yells as the group tackles the actors, who had near them sambar deer antlers and a blade covered in fake blood.

Thailand’s conservationists are struggling to stamp out the multibillion-dollar black market in animal parts, finding themselves outgunned by illegal hunters and outflanked by courts. The country is a key transit point for smugglers moving on to Viet Nam and China, two of the world’s biggest markets for parts from endangered and protected species.

But efforts by its 14,000 rangers to take down illegal hunters and loggers are often stymied by a lack of resources and training, with about 15 rangers killed each year in deadly encounters.

Impunity also reigns for traffickers who are well connected politically and financially, dodging jail time when there is little iron-clad physical evidence to keep them behind bars.

Gathering evidence, protecting a crime scene and using forensic analysis were some of the skills developed by more than a dozen rangers who took part in the training week led by anti-trafficking group Freeland.

Among the participants in the event at Khao Yai National Park, which culminated in Friday’s mock scenario, were four officials from neighbouring



Thailand’s conservationists are struggling to stamp out the multibillion-dollar black market in animal parts. PHOTO: AFP

Cambodia and Laos.

“Our investigation skills are still weak... when they (rangers) encounter these situations, they leave loopholes in the collection of evidence,” Kritkhajorn told AFP. “It could result in the suspect walking free.”

Freeland has emphasized the need for material evidence as “it cannot be manipulated, whereas an eyewitness can retract his testimony”, said country director Petcharat Sangchai, a retired police major-general.

Transnational gangs

The training, funded by the British embassy in Bangkok, comes the same week a Thai court dismissed charges against a suspected wildlife trafficking kingpin. He was accused of smuggling

\$1 million worth of rhino horns to Thailand but the case unravelled when the sole eyewitness changed his testimony

A successful conviction has to be handled “correctly from the forests to the courts”, said Freeland’s program director Tim Redford, adding that widespread wildlife poaching and smuggling involves transnational organised crime rings. “These criminals are exploiting loopholes in the law, they are exploiting weakness of understanding in judges and prosecutors, and that’s why they are winning,” he said.

One case which left the Thai public incensed involved construction tycoon Premchai Karnasuta, who was arrested last February after rangers stumbled on his camp in a national park in Kanchanaburi province.—AFP ■

Environmentalists attacked on Mexico porpoise patrol

MEXICO CITY (Mexico)—Environmental group Sea Shepherd said on Friday one of its ships had been attacked by 20 boats while patrolling off the coast of Mexico to protect the endangered vaquita marina porpoise from illegal fishermen.

Attackers on high-speed boats threw Molotov cocktails and large rocks at the M/V Farley Mowat in the Gulf of California on Thursday, shattering windows and igniting a fire on the patrol ship, Sea Shepherd said in a statement.

It is the second time the organization’s patrol ships have come under attack in three weeks. A similar attack occurred in the same waters on 9 January.

In the latest incident, the ship “was violently attacked by over 50 assailants posing as fishermen,” said the US environmental group. “Sea Shepherd crew members fended the attackers off using emergency fire hoses while Mexican navy soldiers and federal police stationed on board opened fired into the air and sea to deter the attackers.”

Video taken by crew members showed the attackers aggressively approaching the ship and hurling projectiles that shattered its windows.

Sea Shepherd regularly patrols the vaquita marina refuge that Mexico has established in the Gulf of California.—AFP ■

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Grammy task force to tackle gender inequality in music

NEW YORK (United States)—The institution behind the Grammys on Friday announced its first major step aimed at tackling gender inequality in music, launching a plan to expand opportunities for women producers and engineers.

The Recording Academy initiative calls on artists to include at least two women in the pool of candidates they hire from, saying “the music industry is at a crossroads and progress won’t happen on its own.” “There is no magic bullet to shift a status quo that has existed for centuries, but we see this initiative as an important step,” said Tina Tchen, chair of the academy’s nascent Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion.

The task force was created last year in response to major backlash that the Grammys are consistently too male and too white. Just two per cent of music producers and three per cent of engineers and mixers working in popular music are women, according to a 2018 USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative study



The Recording Academy last year created a task force in response to major backlash that the Grammys are consistently too male and too white. PHOTO: AFP

More than 200 artists, producers and other stakeholders including Cardi B, 2 Chainz, Justin Bieber, Lady Gaga, Nicki Minaj, John Legend, Keith Urban and Pharrell Williams have signed on to the new inclusion initiative, the academy said. “Women deserve as much opportunity as men, and we know this industry has not

always been fair,” said rapper Common, a task force member.

“The only way to change these inequities is for us to face it directly and commit to do more.”

The announcement comes less than two weeks before this year’s edition of the Grammys, which boasts a larger class of women nominees across the

top awards after largely being snubbed a year ago.

In May, the head of the Recording Academy—which includes more than 13,000 music professionals—said he would step aside when his contract expires later this year, after sparking outrage by saying women artists should “step up.”—AFP ■

Japan to require casino resorts to have unprecedentedly big hotels

TOKYO—The Japanese government made public on Friday standards it hopes to set for casino resorts to be built by the mid-2020s, requiring them to have hotels and conference rooms far bigger than existing ones in the country.

The large-scale requirements, such as hotels with more than 100,000 square metres for guest rooms, would necessitate huge investments from local governments and facility operators. The government is attempting to compete with regional rivals including Macau, Singapore

and South Korea. Using an average-sized Japanese guest room of 50 square metres, such a hotel would necessitate 2,000 rooms, far exceeding 1,500 at one of the largest hotels in the country.

Other requirements include exhibition halls having at least 120,000 square metres, the largest conference room holding more than 6,000 people, or something between the two—a 60,000-square-metre convention room and a conference room that holds 3,000 people.

The largest exhibition floor space in Japan is at Tokyo Big

Site with 95,000 square metres, and the largest conference halls which are in Tokyo and Yokohama hold around 5,000 people.

Floor space for casinos is set at below 3 per cent of the total integrated resort’s space. Advertising for casinos outside the integrated resort will be limited to airports with foreign flights and terminals at ports. Cabinet approval of the requirements would come at the end of next month, after public comments until 4 March.

A recent Kyodo News survey, covering all of Japan’s 47

prefectures and 20 major cities that are eligible to host the newly legalized resorts, found that only three areas plan to apply for the government’s screening.

Think tanks estimate a casino resort could cost over \$10 billion to build but would bring a significant economic impact if successful. But whether Japan will succeed in attracting wealthy foreign individuals, as the government expects, is unclear. Some projections have shown Japanese nationals would account for between 70 and 80 per cent of casino visitors.—Kyodo News ■

Demi Moore laments portrayal of older women as ‘evil, bitter villains’ in films

LOS ANGELES—Actress Demi Moore wonders why female actors are typecast as “evil, bitter villains” in Hollywood after they attain a certain age.

The 56-year-old actor currently stars in horror comedy “Corporate Animals” where she plays an egoistical CEO of an MNC.

In an interview with IndieWire, Moore, who ruled the 90s with her films like “A Few Good

Men”, “Disclosure”, “Ghost” and “Indecent Proposal”, stressed that older women can play romantic leads in movies.

“I do want to be careful not to play into a cliché, which is that all older women are evil, bitter villains, which is one of the next kind of things that needs to be overcome. We want romance too! We want all those things!” she said.

Moore said she is very

“picky” about the projects she chooses these days.

“I think I’m pretty picky. And now after working with all of these guys, it’s gonna be really tough, because this was so good. Truly, it was one of the best experiences of my whole career,” she added.

“Corporate Animals”, directed by Patrick Brice, also features Ed Helms, Jessica Williams and Karan Soni.—PTI ■



Actress Demi Moore. PHOTO: PTI

Russia digs into mystery mountain deaths 60 years later

MOSCOW (Russia)—Russian prosecutors said on Friday they were revisiting the case of hikers who died on a snowy Urals mountain in 1959, an unsolved Soviet-era mystery that has inspired theories ranging from aliens to a botched nuclear test.

The announcement came 60 years after nine experienced hikers led by Igor Dyatlov perished on a remote Urals hillside on the night of 1 February, leaving relatives still wondering about their cause of death and sparking a host of conspiracy theories. “Relatives, the media and the public still ask prosecutors to determine the truth and don’t hide their suspicions that something was hidden from them,” the Prosecutor-General’s spokesman Alexander Kurennoi said on an official online video site.

Searchers first found the nine hikers’ tent abandoned and cut open, and then their bodies scattered over the mountainside with terrible injuries, after a week of an aerial search of the area. The hikers became known as the “Dyatlov group” and their mysterious end as the “Dyatlov Pass Incident”. A criminal case was opened on 26 February and closed three months later. It remained classified until the 1970s. The probe was closed after Soviet investigators concluded their deaths were not murder without providing a different cause of death. Unanswered questions and rumours have tickled the public’s imagination for decades. On Friday, Russia’s TV-3 channel aired a trailer for its upcoming “Dyatlov Pass” mini-series, which suggests a paranormal explanation for what happened.—AFP ■

Russia may launch new recruitment campaign for cosmonauts' team

MOSCOW—Russia's Cosmonaut Training Centre may announce a new recruitment campaign for the cosmonauts' team this year to involve as many candidates as possible, including women, Centre Chief Pavel Vlasov told TASS on Friday.

A final decision on the start of the selection procedure is to be made by Russia's State Space Corporation Roscosmos, he noted. "I believe a decision on the recruitment will be made this year and, possibly, it will begin this year and will, possibly, continue into the next year," Vlasov said.

As soon as Roscosmos announces the start of the selection procedure, the Cosmonaut Training Centre will try "to maximally disseminate information on the recruitment and draw a maximally possible number of people," Vlasov stressed. "If all the selected persons are wom-

en, there will be no objections and this will not cause anyone's irritation," he added.

As the Centre chief earlier told TASS, the Cosmonaut Training Centre was interested in recruiting as many women as possible into the Russian cosmonauts' team. He added, however, that no artificial criteria will be established for female candidates as they will have to comply with the common requirements set both for men and women.

Women in the cosmonaut's team

As a source in the space industry told TASS, Roscosmos will set up on its own intuitive a team of female cosmonauts for flights to the orbit and will search for candidates among space specialists. Roscosmos Head Dmitry Rogozin later told journalists that the Russian space agency



Russia's Cosmonaut Training Centre may announce a new recruitment campaign for the cosmonauts' team this year. PHOTO: TASS

was considering involving women more actively in future cosmonaut teams. He noted at the time there should be a switchover from the passive form of the work with the cosmonauts' team, when simply a selection procedure is announced and people file applications, to the search for the most talented specialists from among young men and women. He also noted then that the number of candidates for the cosmonauts' team should be far larger: up to

several dozen people.

Female applicants failed to qualify for the team of cosmonauts in the selection procedure that ended in the summer of 2018.

Some specialists later explained this by the specifics of the national mentality and the women's lesser desire to be cosmonauts. The selection was an open recruitment campaign: any Russian citizen not older than 35 years of age, with a higher university degree in engineer-

ing, the sciences or piloting and work experience were eligible to apply. Only men qualified for the cosmonauts' team.

Over the entire period of space exploration in the Soviet Union and present-day Russia, only four women have been able to travel to outer space: Valentina Tereshkova, Svetlana Savitskaya, Yelena Kondakova and Yelena Serova. For comparison, NASA has sent 47 women to outer space to date or almost 12 times more.—Tass ■

Siberian scientists wrap up Ebola vaccine trials

NOVOSIBIRSK—Specialists at the Novosibirsk State Research Center of Virology and Biotechnology VECTOR have completed trials of a vaccine against the Ebola virus disease, which claimed the lives of over 11,000 people in Africa recently, said Nikolai Krasnikov, Head of the Administration of Koltsovo Science City near Novosibirsk where the research centre is located, at the TASS press centre on Friday.

"Our scientists have wrapped up clinical trials of the Ebola vaccine this year. Now it is ready for use," he announced.

The World Health Organization describes the Ebola virus disease (EVD, formerly known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever) as "a severe, often fatal illness in humans. EVD outbreaks have a case fatality rate of up to 90%." Symptoms include a sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, a headache and a sore throat. This is followed by vomiting, diarrhea, a rash, impaired kidney and liver function, and in some cases, both internal and external bleeding. The infection is transmitted by direct contact with the blood, body fluids



Russian doctors and scientists have played an important role in fighting Ebola. PHOTO: TASS

and the tissues of infected animals or people. The incubation period lasts from two to 21 days.

The virus was first registered in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) in 1976, with outbreaks reported from Sudan, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, Angola, and Cote d'Ivoire. The latest Ebola epidemics in West Africa in 2014-2016 killed more than 11,300 people, with more than 28,600 contracting the disease. The most lethal outcomes were reported in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Russian doctors and scientists have played an important

role in fighting Ebola. In 2017, reports said that an Ebola vaccine had been developed by the Novosibirsk-based VECTOR Research Center.

Founded in 1974, VECTOR is one of the world's largest research centres. Initially, it studied the causative agents of such deadly disease as anthrax and tularemia to create biological weapons based on them. Currently, the centre develops tools for diagnosing and treating infectious diseases. Its specialists, in particular, are developing vaccines against swine flu, HIV and Ebola.—Tass ■

Australian scientists tap crucial protein pointing to better stem cell development

SYDNEY—Australian scientists said they have found a way to promote stem cell growth by tapping a crucial protein that gives living tissues the ability to stretch and retract, pointing to a major step toward the body's ability to repair itself. Stem cells are vital for therapeutic treatments to repair and build human tissue including skin and muscles, with researchers constantly looking for ways to make the cells work better and worldwide cell demand far outstripping supply, the University of Sydney said in a statement explaining its researchers' work late on Friday. The researchers have since discovered "a way to generate more stem cells cheaply and quickly" using the tropoelastin protein, it said.

"Stem cells are increasingly being used as cell therapies for a range of diseases that cannot be reliably treated by conventional medicine including skeletal tissue injuries, heart attacks, degenerative diseases and organ failure," said university researcher Dr Giselle Yeo, who co-authored the study published in the scientific journal Proceed-

ings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

"Our discovery that tropoelastin dramatically promotes stem cell expansion and recruitment, and reliably preserves their ability to develop into different types of cells points to new ways of cost-effectively and efficiently growing these stem cells to address the increasing global demand," said Yeo. "Such technologies can help significantly lower the currently prohibitive cost of many cell therapies." Using human stem cells from donors, the researchers found that when small amounts of tropoelastin were applied it "encouraged more cells to be produced, creating a better environment for growth compared to other commonly used proteins for stem cell cultures", according to the university.

"Stem cells need a home to live and grow, and we've essentially created a nice environment for them live in," said the university's Professor Anthony Weiss, the other co-author of the study.—Xinhua ■

Dortmund make Alcacer move permanent from Barcelona

BARCELONA (Spain)—Borussia Dortmund have taken up the option to sign Barcelona striker Paco Alcacer for 23 million euros (\$26 million), the Spanish club confirmed on Friday

Barca said in a statement that Dortmund will also pay five million euros in additional fees for the 25-year-old, while retaining a five per cent stake of any future sale.

“Borussia Dortmund has taken advantage of the permanent transfer option in the agreement with FC Barcelona reached last August for the player Paco Alcacer,” the statement read.

Alcacer joined Barcelona for 30 million euros from Valencia in 2016 but his playing time was limited at the Camp Nou and he moved to Dortmund on loan last summer.

The Spaniard has been a revelation since then, scoring 16 goals in 20 games for club and country this season, while helping Dortmund establish a six-point lead at the top of the Bundesliga.—AFP ■

Real Madrid draw Barcelona in Copa del Rey semis



Holders Barcelona thrashed Sevilla 6-1 on Wednesday to reach the final. **PHOTO: AFP**

MADRID (Spain)—Real Madrid will face defending champions Barcelona in the semi-finals of the Copa del Rey

The draw made on Friday means there will be back-to-back Clasicos, with the second leg due to take place in the last week of February, before Madrid host Barca in La Liga on 2 March.

The first leg will be played at the Camp Nou next week before a return at the Santiago Bernabeu. The provisional dates are 6 and 27 February. Real Betis will go up against Valencia in the other semi-final.

Barcelona are 10 points clear of Madrid in La Liga and will be favourites to progress but their opponents have found form in recent weeks, winning six of their last seven matches.

Barcelona director Guillermo Amor said: “Real Madrid are playing well and they will be the Madrid team we always expect—a group of winners that competes for everything, that can give us a scare if we are not ready to work.”

“There’s nothing like it,” Real Madrid director Emilio Butragueño said. “We are talking about two teams with a lot of resources, with extraordinary players and we always expect very tight games.”

“We trust our players but obviously this is one of the greatest games in the world today.” Barca are chasing a record fifth Copa del Rey success in a row while Madrid are into the last four for the first time since they won the competition in 2014.—AFP ■



Yadanabon FC’s forward Win Naing Tun (right) receives the Player of the Month award in Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay. **PHOTO:MNL**

Yadanabon FC awarded player and coach of the month in national league

THE best player and coach award for the month of January in the Myanmar National League 2019 season has been awarded to Win Naing Tun, a young striker from former MNL champion Mandalay-based Yadanabon FC, after completion of the national league matches for January.

The best coach of the month award was also garnered by U Aung Kyaw Moe from the same team, who managed his team to a no-loss record with 2 wins and 2 draws in January.

Win Naing Tun has placed as one of the top-most scorers of previous weeks in the league, as he scored three consecutive goals in his team’s three beginning matches in early January, plus one more

goal in the match against Magwe FC. He was also recognised as the best player on his team.

In yesterday’s match against Magwe FC, young striker Win Naing Tun made the winning goal for Yadanabon with a single goal in the early minutes of the second half.

Thanks in part to Win Naing Tun, Yadanabon FC sits atop the league standings with 8 points earned after 2 wins and 2 draws, out of 4 matches played.

In the awards ceremony for the national league yesterday, Win Naing Tun received K 150000, along with the medal, while coach U Aung Kyaw Moe received K 1000000 and the medal, according to a source with the national league.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Myanmar women’s team to take part in Indian football tourney

BY the invitation of the Indian Football Federation (IFA), the Myanmar women’s national football team will compete in the four country-invitational football tournament in India, which will be held from 7 to 16 February, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The four nations will include Iran, host India, Myanmar and Nepal competing in the football tourney, said the

source. MFF has selected the Myanmar women’s footballers to compete in the tournament, as stated on its website.

A total of twenty players have been selected, to be led by head coach U Win Thu Moe.

Goalkeepers will be Zar Zar Myint and May Zin New, while defenders include Wai Wai Aung, Ei Yadanar Phyto, Khin Than Wai, Aye Aye Moe, Chit Chit, Khin Myo Win, and Khaing

Thazin.

Midfielders are Khin Malar Tun, Nge Nge Htwe, Khin Moe Wai, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Lae Lae Hlaing, Nu Nu, Thin Thin Yu and Yupar Khaing.

Ye Ye Oo, Win Theingi Tun and July Kyaw have been selected as forwards.

The detail schedule for the tourney will be released soon, according to the MFF.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Man United star Fellaini joins CSL side Shandong Luneng

JINAN—Manchester United midfielder Marouane Fellaini completed his move to the Chinese Super League (CSL) club Shandong Luneng, the CSL side announced here on early Saturday

The CSL top-flight club said the Belgium international already arrived in China, and released a photo of the player holding a Luneng jersey

Marouane Fellaini played for several Belgian clubs before moving to Everton in 2008. After five years at Everton, he arrived at Old Trafford in 2013,

and made 177 appearances throughout with 22 goals to help the Reds to win four trophies - the Emirates FA Cup, FA Community Shield, League Cup and UEFA Europa League. The Belgian international has been capped over 80 times since 2007 and played in the 2008 Olympics, the 2014 FIFA World Cup, UEFA Euro 2016, and the 2018 FIFA World Cup, helping Belgium to the third place in Russia. The details of Fellaini’s contract were not revealed. Luneng ranked third in 2018 CSL season.—Xinhua ■



Academic dress is not for fashion

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



THIS is the time of the year when the universities respectively hold the convocations, when the candidates can set up their own milestones commemorating the fruits and flowers achieved after four years of university studies and when each, to his or her delight and pride, receives a particular academic degree. Moreover, this period of the year sees a series of graduation rehearsals and convocations with each graduate-to-be busy doing themselves up in order to be recognized as the best looking one. We did the same in our young days; we used to take different photos of us both at the studios and on the stage.

However, we never took photos by wearing only one part of the academic dress. (If the registrar and the Head of department saw me doing so, I would not be allowed to attend the convocation but to let go home.)

Over the past three or four years, academic dresses have been inappropriately abused in terms of a fashion trend; the ultimate aim is to take photos. Honestly saying, I used to loathe the sight of people doing so. As per what was advised by our teacher and the knowledge derived from what we learned, a graduate-to-be must respect and cherish his or her academic dress.

Even in the western countries, known to be running ahead of the trend, students wear their academic dresses with a great deal of respect. I have seen them raising the caps only. They are hardly found misbehaving, say, wearing cap, gown and hood separately. I was wondering who started all this stuff. Some may be taking photos while writhing on the ground or lawn with full academic dresses, which, in that case, seem reduced to dirty cloths. (Were I in charge, I would drive them away when I saw such things.) When I was at Mandalay University and, there once I discovered those doing so, I was not reluctant to forbid them. Our rector and professor did not support such things either. But there's nothing I could do if they did so behind my back.

Have our youths had gone spoilt, being fraught with misconceptions regarding things to be cherished, which prompt them to deviate from what is right. We found some taking photos with their hoods kept upside down. Do they even know that 'Hood represents the academic degree they have acquired'? Is that because their parents have just a little knowledge or because it is believed to be their right to clothing? Too bad some parents even are the encouragement!

SEE PAGE- S-3



(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

D. Comparison of Adjectives

နာမ်ဝါသနာများဖြင့် နှိုင်းယှဉ်ခြင်း။
(1) Adj ပျားတွင် Degrees (အဆင့်) သုံးခုရှိသည်။ Positive Degree, Comparative Degree, Superlative Degree တို့ဖြစ်သည်။
ဥပမာ - tall, taller, tallest
(2) အသံထွက်တစ်ခုတည်းရှိသော adj ပျားနှင့် တချို့တွင် တစ်ခုထက်ပမာန်ရှိသော adj ပျားကို ER, EST နောက်မှ တပ်ဆင်ခြင်းဖြင့် Comparative နှင့် Superlative Degree သို့ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

နမူနာများကို လေ့လာပါ။		
Positive Degree	Comparative Degree	Superlative Degree
high	higher	highest
short	shorter	shortest
young	younger	youngest
great	greater	greatest
weak	weaker	weakest
kind	kinder	kindest
fine	finer	finest
fair	fairer	fairest
happy	happier	happiest
(ပျော်သော ier, iest (ထည့်သည်ကိုသတိပြုပါ))		
easy	easier	easiest
merry	merrier	merriest
wealthy	wealthier	wealthiest
(Double ထည့်ရသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။)		
big	bigger	biggest
hot	hotter	hottest
thin	thinner	thinnest
fat	fatter	fattest
sad	sadder	saddest

(3) အသံထွက်နှစ်ခုပမာန်ရှိသော adj ပျားကို more, most ရှေ့မှ တပ်ဆင်ခြင်းဖြင့် Comparative Degree နှင့် Superlative Degree သို့ ပြောင်းနိုင်သည်။

beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful
difficult	more difficult	most difficult
important	more important	most important
delicious	more delicious	most delicious

အရသာရှိသော
တချို့စာလုံးများမှာ အသံထွက်နှစ်ခုတည်းပင်ရှိသော်လည်း ER, EST ထည့်၍ ပရပါ။

proper သင့်တော်သော more proper, most proper
learned စာပေတတ်သော more learned, most learned
(‘လန်းနက်(ဒ်)’ ဟု အသံထွက်သည်။)

(4) အချို့စာလုံးများမှာ Positive, Comparative နှင့် Superlative Degrees ပျား တစ်လုံးနှင့်တစ်လုံးမတူသဖြင့် ကျက်ထားရန် လိုပါသည်။

PD	CD	SD
good	better	best
well	better	best
bad	worse	worst
evil	worse	worst
ill	worse	worst
little	less/lesser	least
much	more	most (quantity)
many	more	most (number)
late	later	latest
နောက်အကျဆုံးသော (အချိန်)		
late	latter	last
နောက်ဆုံးဖြစ်သော		
နောက်ပိုင်းကျသော (နေရာ)		

old	older	oldest
old	elder	eldest
far	farther	farthest
(အတွာအဝေး)		
fore	further	furthest
(နောက်ထပ်)		
fore	former	foremost, first
in	inner	innermost (inmost)
up	upper	uppermost (upmost)
out	outer/utter	utmost, uttermost

(5) Positive Degree

တူညီမှုကို နှိုင်းယှဉ်ခြင်း
as + adj + as

(a) တစ်ဦးနှင့်တစ်ဦး၊ တစ်ခုနှင့်တစ်ခု
တူညီသည်ဟု နှိုင်းယှဉ်လိုလျှင် as ... adj ... as ပုံစံကို သုံးရသည်။

1. Nyi Nyi is bright.
Ko Ko is equally bright.
Nyi Nyi is as bright as Ko Ko.
ညီညီသည် ကိုကိုလောက် ဉာဏ်ကောင်းသည်။
 2. Coffee is good.
Tea is equally good.
Coffee is as good as tea.
ကာဖီသည် လဘက်ရည်လောက် ကောင်းသည်။
 3. Khin Khin is pretty
Hla Hla is equally pretty.
Khin Khin is as pretty as Hla Hla.
ခင်ခင်သည် လှလှလောက် လှသည်။
 4. Today is hot.
Yesterday was equally hot.
Today is as hot as yesterday
ယနေ့သည် ပနေ့ကလောက်ပူသည်။
- (b) အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် as ... as ဖြင့် တင်စားနှိုင်းယှဉ်ထားသည် အတွဲများစွာ ရှိသည်။ အချို့တို့ကို နမူနာအဖြစ် အောက်တွင် ပေးထားပါသည်။

as lazy as a cat
as greedy as a dog
(လောဘကြီးသော)
as brave as a lion ရဲရုံသော
as fierce as a tiger
as innocent as a lamb
အပြစ်ကင်းမဲ့သော
as cunning as a fox
ကောက်ကျစ်သော
as poor as a church mouse.
ဘုရားရှိခိုးကျောင်းမှ ကြွက်လောက်ဆင်းရဲသော
as white as snow
as black as charcoal
as tall as a palm tree ထန်းပင်
as fat as a barrel စည်ပိုင်း

(c) ထို့အပြင် အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့ နှိုင်းယှဉ်သည်မျိုးလည်းရှိသည်။

1. She is cruel.
She is beautiful.
She is as cruel as she is beautiful.
သူမသည် လှသလောက် ရက်စက်သည်။
2. He is miserly
He is rich.
He is as miserly as he is rich.

သူချစ်သောသလောက် ကပ်စေးနည်းသည်။

(6) Comparative Degree

သာယာမှုသည်ကို နှိုင်းယှဉ်ခြင်း

1. Nyi Nyi is tall.
Ko Ko is taller.
Ko Ko is taller than Nyi Nyi.
ကိုကိုသည် ညီညီထက်ပို၍ အရပ်ရှည်သည်။
(စာကြောင်းနှစ်ကြောင်းကို than နှင့် ဆက်ထားသည်ကိုသတိပြုပါ။)
2. Khin Khin is beautiful.
Hla Hla is more beautiful.
Hla Hla is more beautiful than Khin Khin.
လှလှသည် ခင်ခင်ထက် ပိုလှသည်။

3. Malaria is bad. Cholera is worse.
Cholera is worse than malaria.
ဝမ်းရောဂါသည် ငှက်ဖျားရောဂါထက် ပိုဆိုးသည်။
(ထို့အပြင် less.. than နှင့်လည်း နှိုင်းယှဉ်နိုင်သည်။ less နောက်တွင် Positive Degree ပြန်လိုက်ရသည်။)
မြန်မာစာတွင် ဤပုံစံမျိုးသုံးခဲသည်။
Malaria is less bad than cholera.
ငှက်ဖျားရောဂါသည် ဝမ်းရောဂါထက်လျော့၍ ဆိုးဝါးသည်။ (ဆိုးဝါးမှုတွင် လျော့နည်းသည်။)
(ထို့အပြင် Not as... as ပုံစံဖြင့်လည်း နှိုင်းယှဉ်နိုင်သည်။)
Malaria is not as bad as cholera.
ငှက်ဖျားရောဂါသည် ဝမ်းရောဂါလောက်ပဆိုးပါ။

4. I am strong. You are stronger.
You are stronger than I.
ပင်းငါထက်ပိုသန်ပါသည်။
(စကားပြောရာတွင် I နေရာတွင် me သုံးကြသည်။ သဒ္ဒါအရမူ I သည်သာ မှန်သည်။)
အမှန်မှာ than နှင့်ဆက်သောစာကြောင်းသည် အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့ဖြစ်သည်။
You are stronger than I am strong.
ငါသန်ပါသည်ထက် ပင်းပို၍ သန်ပါသည်။
သို့ရာတွင် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် စာကြောင်းတစ်ကြောင်းထဲ၌ စာလုံးထူးများထပ်သုံး လေ့ပရှိသဖြင့် နောက်ဆုံးမှ am strong ကို ဖြုတ်ထားရသည်။
ထို့ကြောင့် You are stronger than I ဖြစ်သွားသည်။
မှတ်သားရန်အချက်မှာ အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် အသုံးအနှုန်းနှင့် သဒ္ဒါပုံစံတူဖြစ်လျှင် အသုံးအနှုန်းကို အနိုင်ပေးလေ့ရှိသည်။
Whenever there is a clash between usage and gram-mer, usage wins.

အောက်ပါနမူနာကို သေသေချာချာလေ့လာပါ။

1. I beat him. I beat her more.
I beat her more than him.
ကျွန်တော်သူ့ကို ရိုက်သည်ထက် သူပိုရိုက်ခဲ့သည်။
(သူ (him) က အရိုက်ခံရသည်။)
2. He beats her. I beat her more.
I beat her more than he.
ကျွန်တော်သူ့ကို သူရိုက်သည်ထက် ပိုရိုက်ခဲ့သည်။
(သူ (he) က ရိုက်သူဖြစ်သည်။
ထို့ကြောင့် ဤသို့သော စာကြောင်းမျိုးများတွင် အထူးဂရုစိုက်သုံးစွဲတတ်ရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။

ဆက်လေ့လာပါ။

I am less strong than you.

ငါပင်းထက်လျော့နည်း သန်ပါသည်။

I am not as strong as you.

ငါပင်းလောက် ပသန်ပါ။

5. A cassette is expensive. A televation set is more expensive.
A television set is more expensive than a cassette.
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားစက် တစ်လုံးသည် ကက်ဆက်ကစ်လုံးထက် ပိုဈေးကြီးသည်။
A cassette is less expensive than a television set.
(ဈေးလျော့နည်းသည်)
A cassette is not as expensive as a television set.
ကက်ဆက်ကစ်လုံးသည် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားစက်တစ်လုံးလောက် ဈေးပကြီးပါ။

6. My house is big. Her house is bigger.
Her house is bigger than mine.
သူပအိမ်သည် ကျွန်တော့်အိမ်ထက် ပိုကြီးသည်။
My house is less big than hers.
ကျွန်တော့်အိမ်သည် သူပအိမ်ထက် လျော့နည်း၍ကြီးသည်။
My house is not as big as hers.
ကျွန်တော့်အိမ်သည် သူပ အိမ်လောက်ပကြီးပါ။

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

REGARDLESS of who they are, what they are and where they come from, many people look forward for better looks. Beauty can be bought at such a quick pace these days. People who live in this planet prefer a better appearance. However, it is quite easy peasy to get what they called, "Beauty". Still there is no shop or store that puts good personality on sale.

"Beauty" is a thing on the skin of a person. It can be made by a surgical knife, makeup, some pills or skin care. It isn't difficult to do those things, is it? But what matters more is a good personality. As everybody knows that people with beauty handicaps still make easy, loving relationships but why? The answer to this question is not difficult. Because they have their own - acceptance. They accept who they are and what they are in reality. If everybody understand this fact, they will start to see that personality plays a main role in a person's life more than beauty. This become clearer if we take a quick look at those greatest in the history. Stephen Hawking, for example, the greatest scientist of all time and Beethoven, one of the illustrious musicians, are successful. They are multi-skilled, unique and have their own style instead of being a carbon copy of the others. The personality of a person tells the whole story of that person. The society may look down on those who lack in appearance but at many times, it absolutely looks up to those with kind hearts.

As a person grows older, the thing on the skin of that person as well grows older day by day. Nobody can go against this nature of the living world. He who was born will certainly grow old as days flow. And the beauty of a person which one used to shine bright like a diamond will fade away no matter how it is maintained with any kind of method. What remains with one as time goes by is an uncoloured pure heart. No robbers or thieves can rob or steal it away. Showing mercy, having sympathy, giving lovingness to are the most favourable things what people do. It is surely important for the general public to know that good personality wins in long terms. Either in jobs opportunities or in the community. If a person is good personalized, everyone loves him, admires him and wants to help him always. Being beautiful is like a flower. It is the queen of everyone's sight and attention at its blooming time but when it starts to wither, no one wants it, nobody adores it and some even disgust to touch it. Likewise, beauty is not permanent. Nobody can count on it to get stucked with a person till he dies. So, everyone needs to grow a pure kind heart which everyone can take along with them to the day they are gone.

Like a random quote, "Beauty attracts the eye but personality captures the heart", personality wins in the situations when it comes to compete with other things.

Talking about good personality of a person, these two tiny words mean a lot. There are many types of personalities as there are different kinds of people. A person who cares to sacrifice for the others with good reason, who always face up great good worthy challenges, who changes the world into a heavenly place with good deeds and still many more left.

Beauty can drift away from our faces and bodies when we grow older. It's like a mask of a person. But when it comes to reality, the personality cannot be hidden by wearing masks, isn't it? It is essential to hand down good personalities to the ascenders from the descenders which is more precious than pure gold. It ain't necessary to wear the fifth Avenue diamond or drive a limousine to fit in the crowd these days. What matters more is trying to plant a seed of good personality in our hearts.

Well, everybody has the right to make an own choice anyway. And what will the reader choose if you're asked to make just one choice; to be a beautiful person or a good-natured person?

The choice is yours.....

By AW Khin Myat Phone

Grade 11A, BEHS 4,
Botahtaung



Timeless Personality



FROM PAGE- S-1

Honestly saying, I cannot bear the sight that academic dresses are being treated disrespectfully. No matter if I am considered traditional, I am disappointed by the youths thumbing their noses at what should be valued. Nothing, however, can be helped since all are turning their blind eyes to such an inappropriateness.

I'm not a pessimist, but we all know that a national flag is as respected by the people of the country it represents as the yellow robes are revered by the monks. Likewise, an academic dress solely belonging to the educated ought to be fully clad. It will surely be awkward to see someone wearing a Burmese traditional jacket and style pant. What if you see

someone wearing only a cap with other ordinary everyday clothes? Accordingly, it is important that you be proud to wear a full academic dress.

Some even ask if academic dresses are that crucial. I still would like to tell them that academic dresses are not at all meant for fashion.

Taking pride in conservation of endangered roofed turtles

By Nyi Tu

There is a village called “Limpha Village” upstream in the Chindwin River. Lisu, Naga, Bamar and Shan ethnic peoples reside in the village.

No one can find Limpha on any map. There is no road access, nor electricity in the tiny village.

With about 40 households, the village is considered small, but for turtles conservationists, the village is a huge treasure because one of the most-endangered turtles, the ‘roofed turtle’, are found there.

The Limpha field station was established about 12 years ago, after researchers discovered the rare species. The roofed turtles once were found in nearly all rivers in Myanmar. Until 2000, however, experts thought the roofed turtle had become extinct in Myanmar.

In 2000, conservationists found the rare species in the Doakhtawady River. The conservationists noticed that the turtles disappeared after the completion of a hydro power plant over the river in 2001.

While scientists thought the Burmese roofed turtle was extinct, Platt and his team found a shell from a freshly killed female roofed turtle in 2001 along the Dokhtawady River near Mandalay, proving that the species still existed.

After the species was found in a lake within the compound of Maha



● The Chief Minister of Sagaing Region and party made the excursion tour to the turtle breeding camp.

Myatmuni Pagoda in Mandalay, conservationists traced the roofed turtles and finally discovered them in the wild near Limpha Village.

Roofed turtle eggs are very rare. In 2014, just a single viable egg was found. None were discovered the following year. A handful were located in 2016.

Officials note that the reason roofed turtles remain in the area was because local people, whenever they gathered eggs, always left behind a few eggs for the next generation.

Conservationists discovered forty-four roofed turtle eggs recently.

The eggs are now at an incubation site established on the sand bars along the Chindwin River in Myanmar. Fencing surrounds the eggs, which receive 24/7 monitoring from villagers who reside in a nearby hut.

Educating local residents about the endangered turtles has been an important effort, since over-harvesting the eggs contributed to the reptile’s near extinction.

Scientists hope that the 44 eggs will resupply the population of roofed turtles.

The Burmese roofed turtle (*Batagur trivittata*), one of the most-endangered turtles in Myanmar, is threatened by illegal gold mining, fishing nets, electro fishing, human settlement on their hatching areas and consumption by local people.

Conservationists are educating local people not to kill the turtles, not to eat their eggs, to avoid settling on the sand beach, and not to perform electro fishing.

“If necessary we patrol the area, together with the police,” said Ko Myo Min Win, a local villager and a member of the conservation team at Limpha station, “Without participation by the local people, we can not achieve success. We take pride in the conservation of the roofed turtles.”

(Translated by Gyaw Orwell)



● The grown-up turtles in the lake.

● Newly hatched roofed turtles.

● Senior officials of the Sagaing Region observe the behavior of the turtles.



● Conservationists’ observation trip along the Chindwin River to gather the biological information about roofed turtles.



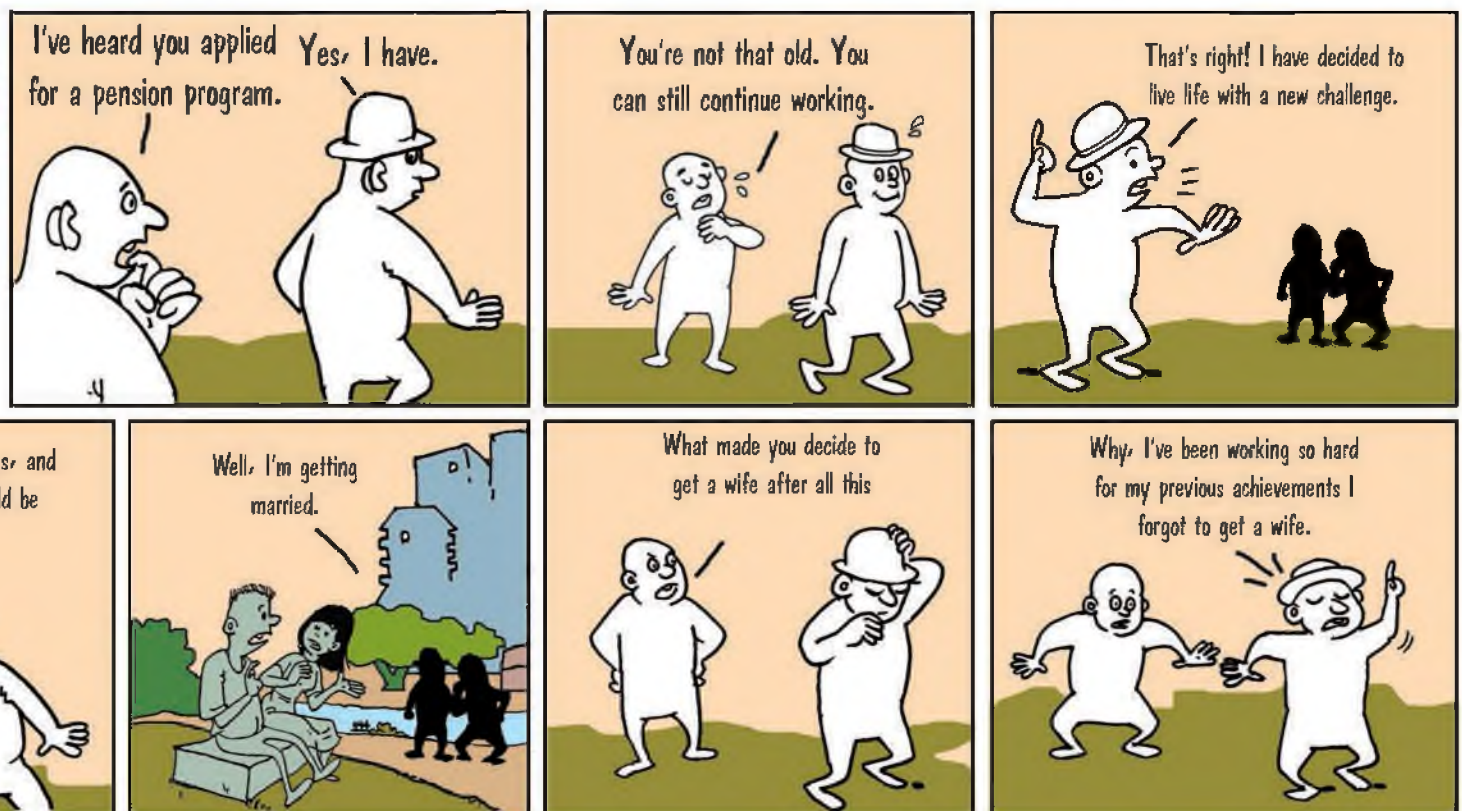
● Conservationists use the radio antenna for their research.

SUNDAY COMICS



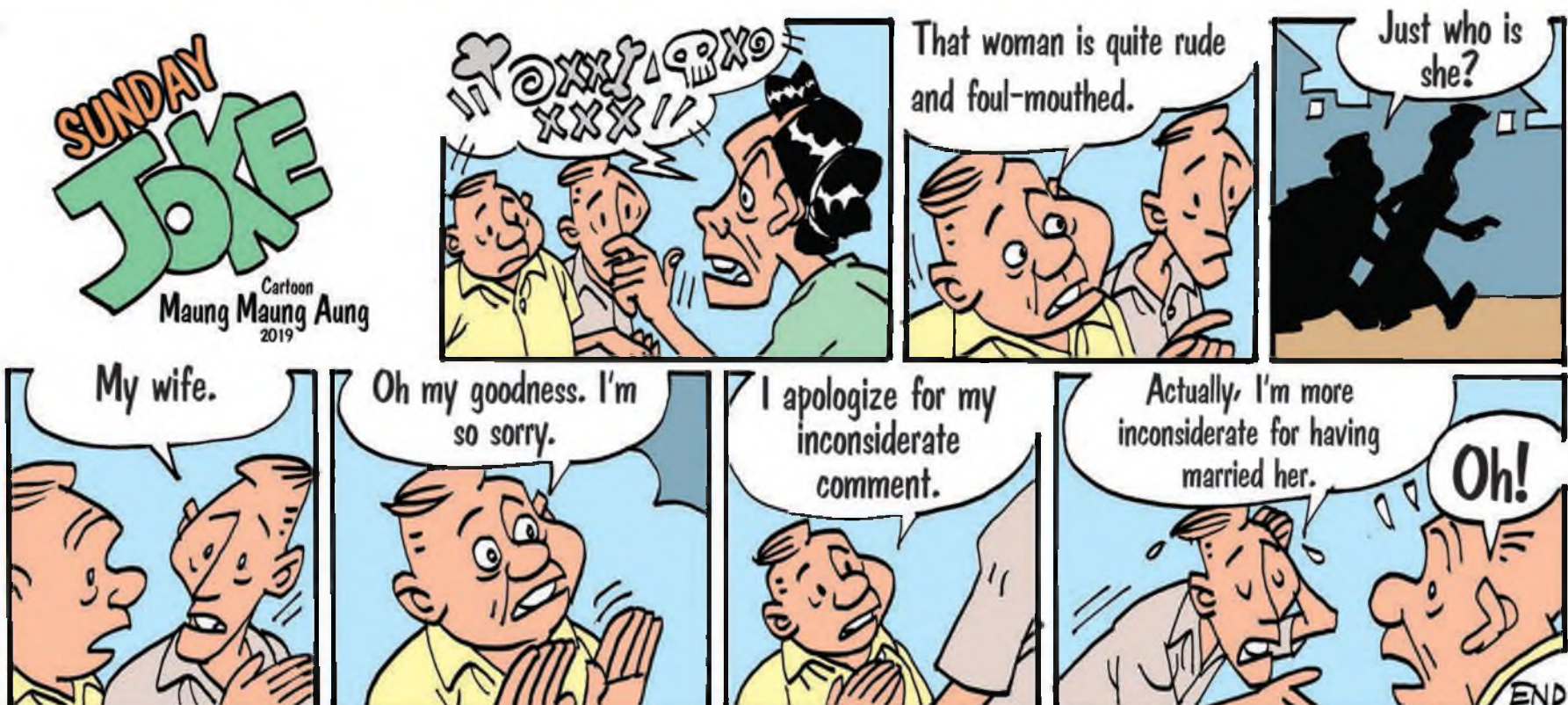
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2019





“Let’s keep
our culture
up not to be slack”



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MYANMAR, golden land, possesses many beautiful geographical areas, fantastic landscapes, and different people with a colorful mind. Since there are 135 ethnic groups in Myanmar, we can see many different cultures, civilizations, traditions, beliefs, and religions. Moreover, Myanmar people have a beautiful mind, donating necessities to the persons who are in need. Like the saying, “A friend in need is a friend indeed”, Myanmar people can be remarked real friends those peoples. No matter what situation they have, they try to donate some of the possessions they own.

According to Buddhism, a donation is a kind of goodness. Therefore, the Buddhists in Myanmar hold the ceremony of donation all around the Myanmar lands. The ceremony of donation is held according to the culture of Myanmar. The ceremony of donation has to be held with different parts, novitiation ceremony for boys under the age of twenty and ear piercing ceremony for girls. The ceremony of donation is very important for Buddhists. It is also a noble ceremony for the Buddhist devotees in Myanmar.

The ceremony of donation is usually held when the farmers or peasants receive much money by harvesting crops they grow. So, they consider holding a ceremony of donation by planning to novitiate their sons and to pierce their daughters’ ears. The couples who do not have any sons and daughters plan to novitiate the neighbor’s sons or their nephews. And, they ask for the abbot of the monastery to choose and verify an auspicious day for holding the ceremony. After that, they plan to hold the ceremony by buying the necessary things to provide foods to the people who will come to their donation ceremony. In this section, there

is a little difference between the donation ceremony in town and the donation ceremony in the village. In town, the hosts of the ceremony invite their relatives, friends, and neighbors via invitation letter. In villages, however, they do not invite villagers going to their houses. They just invite all the villages via loudspeaker to come to their ceremony of donation.

When the ceremony is started, all the novices-to-be, ear-piercing girls and the parents of them, relatives, the country girls and some of the villagers’ process to the monastery carrying respective materials of the ceremony. It is a picturesque view as they are very beautiful with Myanmar traditional outfits. When they reach to the monastery, the *Sayadaw* (abbot) is offered the materials they have taken. And the people who come to the ceremony are provided with rice and various curries. After that, the abbot and some monks shave the heads of the novices-to-be. At that time, parents have to hold the white linen to receive the hair which is shaved. After that, the novices have to recite some verses which are about asking for the robe. And they are given the new Dhamma names as they become the novices. They usually stay at the monastery for a week without having their parents. They have to obey the Buddha’s teaching and follow the disciplines of Buddha’s sons.

Hosting a ceremony of donation is an exquisite culture of Myanmar. We can receive good merit, fun and lovely things by hosting the ceremony of donation. Not only does it give us these beautiful things but it also gives us thinking in which we can know that we ought to maintain our culture and tradition. Therefore, what I would like to express is that “Let’s keep our culture up not to be slack”.



Money cannot buy *true friends*



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WHEN it comes to money, most of the people have optimistic thoughts.

Money is regarded as one of the most important things. A saying goes that money is the second god. It is, however, doubtful that money is powerful enough to name 'a second god'. Especially, in the case of true friends, it is interesting to wonder if money can make true friends or not. First of all, it argues for the idea that money cannot buy true friends because a friend in need is a friend indeed. There are many fair-weather friends, who stay close to us and befriend us only when we have money. A true friend always stands with us even when we are poor as a church mouse. There is a famous story in Buddhism regarding fake friends. There once lived a boy who was born a silver spoon in his mouth. His well-to-do parents did not educate him because they thought that he could live without any worry about money till his last breath. When both of his parents passed away, he did not manage to do anything well and spent money like water with his friends. Finally, he lost all his property. His fake friends left him alone and finally he became a beggar. To make a long story short, he died of hunger alone in the forest. Therefore, it is clearly obvious that money cannot buy true friends.

The argument in favor against the idea that money cannot buy true friends is that money is the resource of anything to be done and friend is not an exception. It is blindingly obvious that money can solve most of the problems and create opportunities too. Likewise, we can get many friends out of money. Among them, we can wisely choose who are really true friends. Without money, a person is less likely to find friends and thus finding true friends is less possible than a person with money.

Taking everything into account, there is no doubt that money cannot buy true friends. However, it does not totally mean that we do not need to find money to get friends.

Money, at its best value, is a good servant. As a result, the more money we have, the more friends it can create. All in all, I think that what we should do best is to decide wisely ourselves which friend is true or which one is fake.

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.), (9) An essay length limit of 600 words (not too long, not too short, not exceeding 600 word count)— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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