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It is especially required to turn the ethnic nationalities' dream of building the Union this day, begun 72 years ago in Panglong, into a reality

Message of Greetings from President U Win Myint on the occasion of the 72nd Anniversary of Shan State Day celebrations
(7 February 2019)

Dear esteemed brothers and sisters of Shan State,

On this auspicious occasion of the 72nd Anniversa-

ry of Shan State Day, I am happy, and deem it a great honor, to be able to send this Message of Greetings to this event, and I send greetings to our brothers and sisters living in the Shan State and all ethnic people of the country, wishing them health and happiness, fortune and prosperity.

Since time immemorial, all the people from different ethnic nationalities have been living in weal and

woe. We lost our independence and sovereignty and came under British colonial rule, when the unity in our country disintegrated. Though the country came under British colonial rule, the people who opposed servitude, including our ethnic races across the country, revolted against the British with a nationalistic spirit, sacrificing their lives.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi unveils a depiction of Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan) when it is completed. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor participates in stake-driving ceremony for Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan) project

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the stake-driving ceremony of Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan) project yesterday morning where she delivered a speech.

State Counsellor delivers speech

"I would like to first wish everyone attending the stake-driving ceremony good health and prosperity. Our country has good natural environments and it is important to value them. If we do then the forests will be lush and thriving

on one side and the people will be living with respect to nature on the other side. The Thanlwin River is one of Myanmar's important rivers and has 9 bridges built over it, with 5 of them in Shan State."

"It is not enough to just build the bridges, we must maintain them as well. We are going to renovate the Kunlong Bridge

and Takaw Bridge too. We must renovate and fix the bridges after a certain period as they are subject to deterioration too. The Kunlong Bridge is 54 years old and the Takaw Bridge is 45. They are in need of renovations. We must also maintain the Tarsan Bridge after it is opened. Maintaining the bridges is a national

duty as well."

"We must regularly maintain peace and stability to ensure national sustainability. I encourage you to foster the Union spirit wherever you go. It is up to everyone to maintain the Union, strengthen it daily and make repairs where necessary. We can take pride in our Union

for housing a large number of diverse ethnic races who all live together in peace and harmony. This shows that our country has considerable inner strength. We may not be as strong as we need to be physically and externally, but our internal mental strength is to be nurtured."

SEE PAGE-3

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves motion to form Joint Committee to implement steps to amend Constitution

By Aung Ye Thwin,
Aye Aye Thant

THE sixth-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein first explained and discussed about an urgent motion tabled by U Aung Kyi Nyunt of Magway Region constituency 4 to form a Joint Committee consisting of Hluttaw members in order to expeditiously implement steps to be taken towards amending the 2008 Constitution.

The Deputy Speaker said the motion was a formal step urging the Hluttaw for a matter that Hluttaw can conduct, a matter that couldn't be handled in an ordinary way in the Hluttaw, is beneficial to the people and is related to the State's recent endeavour for peace and thus the Hluttaw had permitted the motion to be tabled according to Rule 66.

The aim of the motion was as discussed by the Hluttaw representatives, to conduct an all



Representatives of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw seen at the sixth-day meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

inclusive and participatory preparatory works toward preparing a bill to amend the Constitution. Doing this is not related yet to amending the Constitution, Constitution section 433, 434, 435, 436 and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule section 133 to 143.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule section 60 defines a motion as a matter proposed by a Union level organisation or a Hluttaw representative to obtain the decision of the Hluttaw. An urgent motion

is to be tabled according to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule section 66 and Hluttaw had done so. Once a motions and urgent motions are tabled and accepted according to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule sections 60 and 66, tabling, discussing and deciding of the motion is to be conducted according to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law section 21 (g), Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule section 68 and 70.

As per Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule section 68, Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw had permitted the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives to discuss the motion and the majority of the Hluttaw representatives had supported the motion. As the proposer of the motion was urging a formation of a joint committee, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is to decide on the motion explained the Deputy Speaker.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on

the motion. As there were 414 for, 191 against and 6 abstaining, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the motion.

Following this the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker said that as the motion was approved a preparatory joint committee to amend the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Constitution (2008) will be formed with appropriate and equitable numbers of representatives from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker will be assigned as the chair of the joint committee and the committee will include representatives of political parties and Tatmadaw representatives in the Hluttaw in a proportionately.

The Speaker said he will invite responsible representatives of political parties and Tatmadaw representatives to hold discussion in the Hluttaw at an appropriate day. The inclusion of Independents will also be discussed at that meeting and will also assign the duties, responsibilities, rights and terms of the joint committee said the Speaker in his further explanation to the Hluttaw. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar's first micronutrient, food consumption survey published

MYANMAR'S very first Interim Report of Myanmar Micronutrient and Food Consumption Survey was introduced in a dissemination workshop at Mingalar Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the workshop, Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports, said the results of the survey suggests our present situation should be labelled as a national nutritional emergency. He said nutritional development is the most essential component for both physical and mental development in each citizen. He said nutritional health issues can cause malnutrition, obesity, underconsumption or overconsumption of micronutrients, and can occur in anyone.

The Union Minister explained that malnutrition in pregnant mothers can affect the embryo and the same conditions for breastfeeding mothers can affect their children. He explained that those effects will have harmful effects on the children's physical



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe addresses the Dissemination Workshop on Interim Report of Myanmar Micronutrient and Food Consumption Survey in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

and mental development and will weaken their immune system making them more susceptible to diseases.

Short-term malnutrition usually results in thin body struc-

tures but can be treated while the effects of chronic malnutrition are mostly treatable except for stunting, said Dr. Myint Htwe. He said preventing and administering early treatment for mal-

nutrition is important. He said nutrition promotion programs encompasses numerous sectors and cannot be accomplished by the Ministry of Health and Sports alone. It needs the cooperation

of other relevant ministries, he said.

The Union Minister said that they must consult the survey to decide to what degree work must begin on ensuring people have access to affordable, clean, and nutritional regional produce, school-age children are receiving the nutrition they need, and the public is well versed on healthcare to select nutritional food best for them.

Next, Dr. Myint Myint Than, Deputy Director-General of the Public Health Department, and other officials explained the steps taken for compiling the survey, the preface of the interim report, methods and interim results of conducting the survey, and the lab results of the samples of blood, urine and stool conducted during the survey period.

Afterwards, the attendees engaged in discussions and made decisions on future processes. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

It is especially required to turn the ethnic nationalities' dream of building the Union this day, begun 72 years ago in Panglong, into a reality

FROM PAGE-1

The British colonialists practiced a policy of divide and rule, as they separated the hilly regions from the plain regions, and used local residents at the grass root administration levels. After the Second World War, the Pha-Sa-Pa-La, led by Bogoyoke Aung San, demanded independence from the British, and the British proposed granting independence to the country, except for the hilly regions. However, to demand independence for the entire country, Bogoyoke Aung San, our national leader, independent architect and the father of Tatmadaw, held a conference with Shan and other ethnic leaders from the hilly regions at Panglong in Shan State and tried to reach an agreement.

Therefore, on 7th February 1947, Shan nationals and other hilly ethnics, including Chin and Kachin nationals, were able to reach a decision to seek independence, along with the central plains. To honor the 7th February, the day on which the central plains and the mountainous regions decided to demand for independence together,

this day was designated as Shan State Day and we have been celebrating this day every year, and this is the 72nd anniversary. Therefore, Shan State Day is the day the ethnic people of the Union agreed to work together and laid a foundation for building a Union.

Though the people from the ethnic nationalities of the Union worked together to gain independence, armed conflicts arose because of diverse political ideologies, mistrusts and misunderstandings among ethnic brethren, and it is regrettable that in some part of our country, the people are living amidst gunshots and the odour of gunpowder.

It is especially required to turn the ethnic nationalities' dream of building the Union this day, begun 72 years ago in Panglong, into a reality. It is very important to build a democratic federal Union which shall guarantee democratic rights, human rights, and equal rights among ethnic nationalities, leading to the end of the over 70-decade long armed conflicts.

Today's political dialogues, demanded insistently by

our ethnic brethren, emerged as a rare opportunity, for the first time in our history. The meetings at the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong are historic political dialogues for building a genuine democratic federal Union by solving political problems through political means. The third session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong has been held successfully.

I therefore send this Message of Greetings, as I remind and urge all ethnic national brothers and sisters residing in this Union to join hands together in unity and harmony forever, with the spirit of Union or the spirit of Panglong, and with unity between the hilly and the plain regions, work to ensure the goal of a democratic federal union, which shall guarantee justice, freedom, equal rights and self-determination to all the ethnic people of our country.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
(Unofficial translation)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes the condition of the Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan) project yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor participates in stake-driving ceremony for Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan) project

FROM PAGE-1

"We can cross a river without a bridge on boats and rafts but it will take a longer time, more energy and carries greater risk from the weather. Building a bridge means we can cross over the dangers of the river anytime we please. The Union is also a bridge, one that will carry us over the challenges and dangers of our nation."

"Constructing a bridge requires the will to carry it out first. Then we must make plans and acquire the necessary finance and technology to implement them into reality. This method allows many projects to succeed. We must be mindful of

all sides in whatever we undertake and have the perseverance to succeed. We cannot strengthen the Union with just our wills. We must find ways and methods to achieve it, unite and endure hardships, and cooperate with each other."

"Here we have many people from the local area and faraway regions coming to work on this project. We must unite in important affairs to succeed in projects such as building this bridge."

"If we carefully ponder on how much unity and energy we need to put in to establish a nation we will be able to see it clearly. Building a bridge is the same as overcoming a

challenge. We must compensate each other's weaknesses in this regard while supporting their strengths."

"Our entire Union needs to place goodwill on each other in both small and large-scale projects. We are partners who need to hold on firmly to each other so that we can lift those who have fallen. Otherwise we may eventually fall down as well."

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi driving the stake for the Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan) project yesterday.

PHOTO: THET AUNG





State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses a documentary photo together with officials and ethnic children at the stake-driving ceremony for Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan) Project yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor participates in stake-driving ceremony for Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan) project

FROM PAGE-3

"I believe that the people will build confidence over their small accomplishments to achieve even greater ones. The Union Government is prioritizing socioeconomic development and lasting peace. We continually point out that the two are intrinsic and need each other to be both sustainable and lasting."

"There is still a lot of work to be done on both the peace and development fronts. But you don't need to be discouraged. This calls for us to be stronger. The bigger the challenge, the more energy you need to exert. We must also know how to correctly exert our energy lest they become wasted or even dangerous. For example, if we build a bridge without considering the important points then this bridge will later become a danger to the people. That's why we need to assess the situ-

ation and use our energy in the correct location. It will be difficult to construct this bridge if there is no trust between the key performers."

"Shan State has the most diverse ethnic nationals among the other regions of Myanmar and as such, is a good model of our country's demographic structure. It needs to be a role model for the Union. I want our entire country to develop uniformly. If one area lags behind the other then it will affect the peace and stability of the whole nation. It is human nature to want to be treated equally so we are working hard for uniform development across the country."

"But this is easier said than done. Sometimes, due to the geography or surrounding natural environment, some areas will be faster in developing than others. For example, Chin State has the

most difficult transportation infrastructure in the country. Shan State is neither too difficult or too easy."

"I believe that Shan State has the skills to overcome the challenges daunting our nation and will be able to display the integrity of our Union. I kindly request the people of Shan State to support unity among our entire country."

"Everyone wants peace but not everyone places the same value on it. Some place more value on peace while others have things they value more. But I believe that we do not have anything more valuable to us than peace because we will only acquire national development based on this. This responsibility rests on everyone's shoulder as much as it does on the government."

"When we took on the duties of government, we promised to implement national reconciliation and internal peace. We must fulfill the promise given to the people as it is something more valuable than our own lives. I believe we will truly achieve peace, which is why I am able to firmly give my promise to the citizens of this country."

"This is the reason for convening the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference. This is also why I believe it is an honor for

I believe we will truly achieve peace, which is why I am able to firmly give my promise to the citizens of this country.

everyone here in attendance to be able to participate in the stake-driving ceremony together. I extend my gratitude to you all from here."

"I thank the various supporters and contributors who helped to bring about this event. Expressing gratitude is the same as knowing value. This is an important skill in life and will assist all of us in establishing a federal democratic Union."

Afterwards, the State Counsellor handed over food and aid for the residents of Mongton and Mongpan townships. The local residents gave the State Counsellor a traditional costume and bouquet in return.

The State Counsellor was then accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Min Thu, and U Han Zaw, Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut, and Shan State Min-

ister for Roads and Transport U Khun Ye Htwe in driving the ceremonial stakes into the ground at the appointed hour.

The State Counsellor unveiled a depiction of a completed Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan) and took a documentary photo with all in attendance. She then surveyed the construction site from an observation stand.

The Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan) will provide an important link between the southern and eastern parts of Shan State. The bridge is located on the Namhsan-Mongnai-Mongton-Monghsat road and will easily connect with the border township of Tachilek. The bridge will be an important instrument for border trade and will bring in healthcare, education, and socioeconomic development once completed.

—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

There is still a lot of work to be done on both the peace and development fronts. But you don't need to be discouraged. This calls for us to be stronger.

State Counsellor meets with people from Kengtung, Mongton, Monghsat townships, discuss peace, rule of law and development

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with the local people during her visit to Kengtung, Mongton and Monghsat yesterday, discussing the issues related with peace, the rule of law and development.

Speaking at the meeting the people in Kengtung yesterday morning, the State Counsellor stressed the importance of trust between the government and the people to perform the duties by the elected government.

Most people consider that a government is mainly responsible for performing the duties of its country. Being elected by the people, both the government and the people also have a duty, somehow respectively. It is confident that both sides can achieve success in performing those duties, after building trust.

“For the development of a country, there needs to be continuous relations between the government and the people. Only then, would both sides un-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with the authorities and local people in Kengtung. PHOTO: MNA

“For the development of a country, there needs to be continuous relations between the government and the people. Only then, would both sides understand the difficulties endured by each other. The government understands the difficulties and needs of the people, and the people need to understand the obstacles the government must confront. Only then, can both work together effectively,”

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

derstand the difficulties endured by each other. The government understands the difficulties and needs of the people, and the people need to understand the obstacles the government must confront. Only then, can both work together effectively,” she added.

She continued to say that the Union Government is making efforts for meeting the electricity demand of the country, pledging to produce more electricity from

the country’s natural resources as much as it can. The incumbent government is making efforts for promoting transportation, electrification, education and health sectors, stressing the need to achieve peace for development the country and to achieve development for strengthening the peace.

“The most important thing is that we must solve the problems in our country by ourselves. If we

had peace and stability, we would not need to think about security all the time. The decision to open or close the road based on the security situation is an example of the huge requirements of our country,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. During her visits to regions and states, she noticed that there was lack of close relations between the authorities and the people. To ensure stability of the country and security of the people physically and mentally, it is mainly required to prevail the rule of law in the country, she said, adding that Myanmar needs law experts to ensure laws are right.

The level of the law experts is high in developed countries, she added. The State Counsellor also pledged to develop vocational training schools in the country as the vocational education is also considered important one for a country. At the meeting, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also coordinated requirements of the people.

Following the meeting, the State Counsellor flew to Monghsat by the Tatmadaw helicopter.

She met with local people at the Monghsat Sports Stadium. At the meeting, she urged the people to be interested in the politics, saying that the politics does not mean just for party politics but also for all activities in the interest of the country and the people.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with local authorities and people in Monghsat. PHOTO: MNA

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“Our main goal is to build a genuine democratic federal Union. We believe that only when we have built it, will our country enjoy peace, stability and development.”

— State Counsellor

FROM PAGE-5

She continued to say that politics involves in life of everyone, stressing the need to have modern professionals to be able stand tall in the world, urging the parents to instill the children this spirit.

“The issues most often reported to me are the ones that can be solved between a regional government and regional peoples. I would like to urge the state and region governments to promote relations with its local people and to meet with them frequently to solve issues by themselves,” said the State Counsellor.

At the meeting, local people reported on needs for basic infrastructure for education, health, transportation and electrification and the State Counsellor coordinated the requirements in accordance with the policy, rules and procedures of the government.

Following the meeting in Kengtung, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her entourage flew to Mongton by helicopter and they were welcomed by regional MPs, departmental officials and local ethnic people.

She met with local people at the Mongton Township General



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by local people as she arrives Mongton yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Administration Department.

Speaking at the meeting, the State Counsellor called on the local authorities and the people for building understand and trust each other, urging the administrative sector to ensure close and transparent relations with the people.

In her speech, the State

Counsellor also highlighted the trust and understanding between the authorities and the people as part of efforts for building a federal democratic Union which can guarantee peace, stability and development to the country.

“We need to build trust and understanding among each other. When I tour the country, there is no more important issue than meeting with the people. It is a main requirement of a government to establish friendship, trust and understanding between governmental institutions and the people. Our main goal is to build a genuine democratic federal Union. We believe that only when we have built it, will our country enjoy peace, stability and development.”

She also urged the people to

have strong willingness to gain peace as she noticed that all ethnic peoples are staying together in towns of Shan State peacefully.

“Problems encourage us to promote our own abilities. There is no need to feel inferior because of these problems. Moreover, there is no problem that cannot be solved. When we try to solve a problem, we must have diligence, wisdom, courage and goodwill, and with genuine goodwill, we must try to face these problems. If we face problems together, I believe we can overcome them,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

She expressed thanks to the people who discussed with her at the meeting, saying that open discussion at the meeting is leading to building understanding among the people and the authorities.

After the meeting, the State Counsellor accepted the traditional utensils of local ethnic nationalities and posed for documentary photos together with local ethnic youths.

Afterwards, State Counsellor and party left Monghsat by special flight to Heho where they were welcomed by the Shan State Hluttaw Speaker, the Chief of Shan State High Court and members of the Shan State cabinet, the Shan State Advocate General, the Shan State Auditor General, departmental officials and ethnic people.

The State Counsellor and entourage proceeded to Taunggyi in motorcades and they were welcomed by the local people along the road.— MNA ■

(Translated by GNLM)

“The issues most often reported to me are the ones that can be solved between a regional government and regional peoples. I would like to urge the state and region governments to promote relations with its local people and to meet with them frequently to solve issues by themselves,” said the State Counsellor.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by local people as she arrives at Heho Airport. **PHOTO: THET AUNG**



Local people in Taunggyi welcome State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **PHOTO: THET AUNG**

Transport, ICT Sector Coordination Group holds meeting to strengthen internal cooperation



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung addresses the meeting on Transport and ICT Sector Coordination Group in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A meeting on Transport and ICT Sector Coordination Group was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung addressed the meeting.

At the meeting, Chairman of Coordination Group Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung said that Transport and ICT Sector Coordination Group was

formed under the Development Assistance Coordination, Unit and which is one of the well-known 10 Sector Coordination Groups.

The coordination group was established in cooperation with development partnerships and officials from the relevant departments, with the aim of carrying out the tasks smoothly. Moreover coordination meetings were being conducted after

the transport group and ICT groups were formed.

It was needed to carry out goals and visions of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Programme-MSDP to foster the sustainable development of the country. At the meeting, attendees discussed the results of the first coordination meeting, the approval of new members and on-going schemes.—MNA ■
(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Theravada Buddhist missionaries abroad can contact SSMNC via email, phone

THERAVADA Buddhist missionaries abroad can contact State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee – SSMNC via email and phone or can visit its website for needed information, according to SSMNC.

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee has formed a foreign affairs body under its education affairs sub-committee for foreign missionaries on 1 No-

vember 2016, developing a website.

The foreign affairs body aimed at propagating Theravada Buddhism not only in local but also abroad, carrying out the missionary works effectively.

Buddhist organizations, people and Members of Sangha sent abroad as missionaries by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, can visit the web-

site of the foreign affairs body, www.mahana.org.mm in both Myanmar and English languages, or can email tharwi2016@gmail.com or contact Daw Moe Moe San, Assistant Director of the foreign affairs body, 09-255981857, 09-73132302, and 01-661746 (Phone and Fax) for needed information.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Public Health Department provides healthcare services at IDP camps in Pauktaw Township

DEPARTMENT of Public Health, in collaboration with Pauktaw Township Public Health Department, provided healthcare services to the people at IDP Camps in Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State on 5 February.

For the first day, the healthcare team led by head of Rakhine State Public Health Department Dr. Kyi Lwin rendered healthcare services to 174 child pa-

tients under 3 years of age and other 51 pregnant women at the Hnet Chaung and the Kyeinni IDP camps, Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State, where they examined 11 malaria patients, 12 patients who had tested TB disease, 11 patients who took the treatment of dental health, 79 child patients, 43 pregnant women and other 197 people sharing medial knowledge. As an effort to

provide the healthcare services for the first time, arrangements had been made to provide the medical treatments to 600 people, who were from the Hnet Chaung and the Kyeinni IDP camps, until 7 February. Similar healthcare services would be rendered in March and May, it was learnt. — Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alin) ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



A nurse administers medical treatment to a child **PHOTO: MIN HTET.**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 7/2019
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Appointment of Judge for Yangon Region High Court

In accordance with the provisions stated in the Article 308, sub section (b), sub-sub section (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, sub-section (d) under Article 82 of Union Government Law, Article 45 of Union Judiciary Law and Article 18, sub-section (D) of Region or State Government Law, Daw Soe Khet Khet has been appointed as Judge for the Yangon Region High Court.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

New Zealand's Deputy Secretary Mr. Ben King arrives in Yangon



Mr. Ben King, Deputy Secretary of New Zealand's Americas and Asia Group, arrives in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

A delegation led by Mr. Ben King, Deputy Secretary of the Americas and Asia Group, under New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, arrived in Yangon yesterday, to attend the first Myanmar-New Zealand bilateral policy coordination meeting to be held today

(7 February) in Nay Pyi Taw.

The delegation was welcomed by New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Steve Marshall and officials at Yangon International Airport yesterday.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Integrating Loving-Kindness into the Union

“IN a country like ours that needs to establish unity from diversity, we need to nurture understanding and mutual respect for one another. It is acceptable to love your own people, but it will be a grave mistake to be intolerant of others because of this reason. Metta (loving-kindness) needs to be nurtured with Metta. It cannot be fostered with anger. Metta conquers anger, but anger cannot trump Metta.”

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave this explanation on nurturing Metta to local residents of Tachilek and Mongyawng townships during her travelling to Shan State (East) a few days ago. She said nurturing loving-kindness between ethnic nationals is important, since it is the path to success, while anger leads to destitution, as portrayed in numerous religions.

Only when the rule of law is properly enforced will there be peace, which will lead to regional development and, as a result, will fulfill the basic needs of the people and allow them to live in tranquility.

To implement this into our Union, which is composed of a diverse set of ethnic races, we need to first establish unity which, in turn, requires reciprocated understanding. We can establish understanding between us if we cast away discrimination and nurture Metta on each and every person in the country. We again reiterate that the way to fulfill the requirements of our ethnic nationals is to establish the rule of law and peace, which will lead to development. We can see that the Union Government is working hard, in that regard, and we need the cooperation of the people, as well.

It has been at least 70 years since we have been distanced from Union peace, and to establish the democratic federal Union we all desire we must foster understanding, respect, and unity among us, while welcoming loving-kindness into our hearts.

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သတင်းစာ၊ ဂျာနယ် စာအုပ်များ အား နိုင်ငံတော် အဆင့်ရှိ ပုံနှိပ်စက်ဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။

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Heart of the Union, Peace and Collective Strength is joint message sent to the people

Article and Photo by Moe Lwin Oo (Loilem)

PEACEFUL coexistence can be enchanting among nationalities, but it also comes with its share of unity, harmony and loving kindness, as Myanmar is a union of 135 ethnic groups with their own languages and dialects.

The major races are the Kachin, the Kayah, the Kayin, the Chin, the Mon, the Bamar, the Rakhine, and the Shan residing in flat lands and hilly regions, since time immemorial.

Anglo-Myanmar Wars, (1824–26, 1852, and 1885) collectively forced Myanmar into a vulnerable position from which it had to concede British hegemony in the region of South East Asia. Revolt against the rulers by the patriotic nationalities failed due to imbalanced of strength, but the fight went on to regain independence.

With the show of marvelous strength and unity, Bogoyoke Aung San and the national leaders successfully signed the legendary and unforgettable Panglong Agreement which stands out as the hard rock instrument in regaining the independence of the nation that would remain in our hearts for eternity.

Time flies by, some memories slowly fade away, but sometimes, just one little moment, captured in feelings, can last a lifetime, and that is the Union Day.

Over (70) years ago, on 12 February 1947, Bogoyoke Aung San met with (23) ethnic leaders, mostly Shan, Kachin and Chin, and concluded an agreement unanimously in a town named “Panglong” and that the agreement became known as the “Panglong Agreement”, and thus the Union Day was born.

Declaring Independence on 4 January 1948, a sovereign nation was born on this planet as Myanmar, but the people could not enjoy the taste of freedom as the motley assortment of insurgents popped up across the country. The unending conflicts and the civil wars dragged on in the country until today.

With the vision to transform into multi-party democratic system, the general elections were held in 2010 in the whole country, and the civilian government administered by the people came into power. Subsequently, the internal conflicts were zipped up with the



The national races living in respective geographical areas have been living together in harmony and friendship.

NCA. The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was a landmark ceasefire agreement between the government of Myanmar and representatives of various ethnic insurgent groups, officially known as “ethnic armed organizations” (EAOs) by the government. The draft was agreed upon by a majority of the invited parties on 31 March 2015, and the agreement was signed on 15 October 2015.

The signing was witnessed by observers and delegates from the United Nations, the United Kingdom, Norway, Japan and the United States. A ceremony is held by the government annually on the anniversary of the signing of the agreement.

Peace process being initiated in the five-year term of the previous government, and that the endeavor continues in the five-year term of the incumbent government.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, the State Counsellor and the daughter of Bogoyoke Aung San, is working hard in diligent, energetic and indefatigable approach.

Auspicious Union Day is just around the corner on 12 of Febru-

ary 2019 to be celebrated as 72nd Anniversary across the country with stately or magnificent display in ceremonial splendor, especially in the Panglong Town of Loilem District in Shan State (South), centering at “Panglong Agreement Pillar” or the Union Spirit Monument enveloped with cool environment.

The author of this article looked back to the 70th Anniversary of Union Day held in Panglong, and remembered the images of all the local elders and the people.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a speech where she said, “I used to say the legacy left by my father is people’s love. This will not be lost how much I spent. But

we should not spend it. We must value and keep it forever. In this way, I want the present generation and those trying for the Panglong conference to succeed to save and leave legacy of peace.”

The natural resources of the country such as that of gold, silver, gems, rubies, and all the elements would be depleted if we utilized and abused them all, but the legacy of peace would be remained for eternity.

The legacy of peace is very much decisive and influential and also supportive for the ongoing national unity endeavor, the national reconciliation, the internal peace, and the ceasefire agreement.

The National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) issued

Tatmadaw considered that discussions need to be conducted with each ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) in Northern Command, North East Command, Eastern Command, Middle East Command and Triangle Command that had not signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

In order to conduct these discussions Tatmadaw will cease all its region wise military operations from 21 December 2018 to 30 April 2019. During this period when troops movements are suspended military operation area wise ethnic armed organizations are to coordinate and discuss about ceasefire and peace matters with National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, and when required a Negotiation and Discussion Group consisting of Tatmadaw senior officers from Commander-in-Chief (Army) led by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Commander of the relevant Command will also hold discussions.

In paragraph (11) of the ceasefire announcement, it declared that on the third anniversary of signing the NCA, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief had told both signatories to the NCA and the EAOs that have not yet signed the NCA that the Tatmadaw is committed to finishing the peace process in 2020 and to achieving eternal peace desired by the people.

This announcement is made to urge all EAOs to make the same commitment and to continue the implementation of the work towards signing the reintegration for security and the Union Accord.

Blending and combining the three messages, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s speech, the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) press release, and the announcement by the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief’s Office, offers the people an optimistic, confident, and peaceful view of the country.

In hailing the 72nd Anniversary of Union Day of 2019, it is the best time to come together for the government, the Tatmadaw, and the people with collective strength in creating the eternal peace in the country, and then stepped into the developed, disciplined democratic 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 Panlong and thence till the success of the internal peace process.
4. All union nationals to cooperate and work in “Unity and Harmony” for rule of law and for the people to be secure and free from danger.
5. All union citizens to be able to enjoy good education and adequate health care protection.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Wednesday 6 February 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (3°C) below February average temperatures in (Northern and Eastern) Shan State, (2°C) below February average temperatures in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon regions, Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah states, (2°C) above February average temperature in Taninthayi Region and about February average temperatures in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (-1°C) in Haka, (2°C) in Hsipaw, (3°C) each in Namhsan, Heho and Ramthlo, (4°C) each in Loilin and Mongyan, (5°C) each in Lashio and Pinlaung. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthoung (0.08) inch.

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 7 February 2019: Light rain will be isolated in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State 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: Generally fair in the whole country.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 February, 2019: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 February, 2019: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 February, 2019: Fair weather.

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Rakhine State Chief Minister receives representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Centre

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu received representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre, yesterday afternoon, in Sittway Township, Rakhine State.

During the meeting, the representatives said that the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT) would make an analysis of the repatriation process in accordance with the agreements between Myanmar and ASEAN, and management and supports from Myanmar, preparing for questionnaire to be used by ASEAN-ERAT team in cooperation with departments and giving support for the observation team.

Rakhine State Chief Minister

U Nyi Pu replied that efforts would be made to cooperate with the ASEAN for the repatriation process with genuine motives. The development of the whole Rakhine State is more crucial rather than giving humanitarian aids. If employment opportunities could be created, it would be beneficial to the residents in the Rakhine State. Moreover as an effort to render development works, it would be a great opportunity to conduct the development works.

Similarly, the representatives from the AHA Centre met on 5 February with the officials from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. In the meeting, they discussed



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu receives representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre in Sittway yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

matters relating to repatriation process of the Rakhine State

and conducting workshops for the ASEAN-ERAT team in My-

anmar.—MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Ethnic cultural troupes performing on 72nd Union Day tour Nay Pyi Taw

MEMBERS of ethnic culture troupes from regions and states, who will be performing at the 72nd Anniversary Union Day celebrations, made their first-day excursions in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday in two groups.

The first group consisted of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Chin states, and Lawgore and Geba ethnic cultural troupes.

They visited National Landmark Garden, Defence Services Museum, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, Gems Museum and Junction Center in Nay Pyi Taw.

The second group consisted of ethnic culture troupes from Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states, and Wa ethnicity.

They visited Zoological Garden, Planetarium, Myoma Market, Water Fountain Garden, Buddha Gaya and Upatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ethnic traditional culture troupes will make their second-day excursion in Nay Pyi Taw today. —Hmwe Kyu Zin (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Ethnic cultural delegation visits the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: KYAW ZIN HTEIK**

Historical data, building lists of Ancient City Amarapura to be published soon



A palace guard tower in ancient Amarapura city. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

THE historical data and building lists related to the ancient city of Amarapura will be pub-

lished soon, according to U Aye Lwin, Assistant Director of Mandalay Region Archaeo-

logical Research and National Museum Department.

The historical data and building lists of ancient city Amarapura have been collected since 2017, aiming to assist in creating new tourist destinations for development of tourism sector.

Mandalay Region Archaeological Research and National Museum Department carried out minor renovation to the archaeological heritage buildings of ancient city Amarapura continuously, particularly in 2018, clearing the grass bushes in and around the buildings, he added.

The cultural heritages of the ancient city Amarapura can be observed at No.2 main factory (electricity) – Pa La Sa (2)

in Tama Tan Street beside the Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Amarapura Township, according to 70-year old U Ba Aye who lives in Hman Tan Kwet Thit in Amarapura Township.

The first indigo factory in Myanmar constructed by Kanaung Mintha Gyi, including six 20 ft wide and 40 ft deep brick-lined tanks and one ancient stove is also located in this factory compound.

A palace tower which has 6 ft in length, over 40 ft in width and over 45 ft in height, and an ancient royal treasure house that is assumed to be constructed in the reign of Bodaw Badon Min, are also situated there.

“Amarapura is a former royal capital. Most of the archae-

ological heritages of Amarapura disappeared, as the buildings in which were moved when the new Yadanarbon City was founded.

There were palace walls and moats in the past, but then they disappeared. If local residents conserve the remaining buildings and pagodas, they will exist longer,” U Ba Aye said.

There were also tombs and pagodas of Bodaw Badon Min, Bagyidaw Min and Tharrawaddy Min, along with U Pawoo Pagoda, Bo Bo Aung Pagoda, Shwe Sankar Myo Daung Pagoda, Mya Pha Khet Pagoda.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing house)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Trade on YSX drops by half in January

THE value of stocks traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in January slid to K526 million from a record of K1.2 billion last year, according to the monthly report released by the stock exchange. Currently, five companies are listed on the exchange.

An estimated 89,570 shares were traded on the exchange in January, according to YSX.

In spite of promotion events for investors, trading on YSX has remained lackluster.

In 2016, shares of just three companies were traded on the YSX — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), and Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB). One more public company, First Private Bank (FPB), listed on the exchange in 2017, but stock prices continued to decline. Last year, TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd listed on the YSX.

Over 2.5 million shares of three listed companies were



traded on YSX in 2016. The value of shares was estimated at K70 billion. Although the volume of shares traded rose to 2.6 million in 2017, their value was registered at just K22 billion. In 2018, 2.3 million shares of five listed

companies were traded on the exchange. Their value was estimated at K11.5 billion, almost half of that registered in 2017, according to the annual report of the YSX.

In January, shares of FMI

closed at K9,000, MTSH at K2,850, MCB at K7,200, FPB at K22,000, and TMH at K2,750.

Last year, the YSX doubled the stock trade matching time from two to four per day. In addition to this, the YSX held

a promotional event for investors to increase the number of new investors and encourage existing investors to trade more actively by informing them about the financial reviews and future prospects of listed companies.

“Capital market infrastructure is still lacking in Myanmar. Only 15 per cent of 36,000 securities accounts are active. Stock trading this year has been on the lower side. For the stock market to gain momentum, government support is of vital importance. With the support of government, more public companies will be encouraged to participate in the stock market and more institutional investors such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies will emerge,” said U Thet Htun Oo, the executive senior manager of the YSX told the Global New Light of Myanmar last year.

—Htet Myat ■
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Foreign investors show interest in Chin elephant foot yam processing unit: MVFP

By Aye Yamone

INVESTORS from the UK, China, Thailand, and Japan have expressed interest in a project to set up a factory for processing elephant foot yam in Chin State, with an estimated capital of US\$1 million, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP).

The association had invited investments for the elephant foot yam drying factory at the Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 held at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 January.

“Two or three corporates have shown interest in the project. We have started exploring the project area. We have received approval from the Chin State government and they are committed to providing electricity infrastructure. The construc-

tion of the factory is slated to end in September and it is likely to begin operations in November,” said U Kyaw Thu, the secretary of the MFVP.

Matters pertaining to the construction of the factory will be discussed further at the Chin State Investment Forum, which will be held in Yangon in March.

Elephant foot yam is the main product of Chin State. The Kanpetlet, Mindat, and Matupi townships produce about 1 million viss (a viss equal to 1.6 kg) of elephant food yam. Northern Chin State also cultivate elephant foot yam.

“The cost of the factory building is estimated to be \$1 million. We are not at liberty to reveal the details before discussions are complete. The project will be implemented with the participation of private companies and growers. MFVP is just

organizing the project. It is likely to team up with entities from the UK,” said U Kyaw Thu.

Myanmar’s elephant foot yam is primarily purchased by China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Once the drying mill is established, dried elephant foot yam produced at the factory will be shipped to those countries.

Elephant foot yam can be planted across the country. In addition to Chin State, it is produced in Kayin, Mon, and Shan states, and Taninthayi and Bago regions.

There are seven elephant foot yam drying factories in Myanmar, with three factories in Mandalay, one in Mon State, one in Myawady Township, and two in Ye Township. Investments will be invited for other products of Chin State such as avocado, coffee seeds, and tea leaves. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Focus will be on food safety as Mandalay preps for peanut oil exports

THE Mandalay Region government is planning to export peanut oil produced in line with Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

As it prepares for export of peanut oil, Mandalay Region is focusing on implementing a food safety program.

To place Myanmar’s peanut oil in foreign markets, aflatoxins have to be removed before production, in compliance with food safety guidelines, said Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung at the Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 held at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 January.

The food safety program is being conducted with funds allocated from the Mandalay Region’s budget. Under the program, plans are under way to cultivate chemical-free kitchen crops in Madaya and Pyin Oo Lwin townships.

At the summit, the Manda-

lay Region Chief Minister also invited investors to invest in the agricultural sector, saying the region has about 10,000 acres of plantations.

There are about 300 oil millers in Mandalay, of whom only 50 hold FDA certification, while the rest have been unable to meet the FDA criteria.

The Myanmar Edible Oil Millers Association plans to help millers in the entire supply chain get approved by the Food and Drug Administration, with a view to eradicating illegal sales in the market and ensuring a firm market for producers.

In 2019-2020, the association will make efforts to increase the number of FDA-recognized oil mills to about 150.

The move will also help millers earn the trust of consumers and place them in a better position to compete with other oil brands being sold in the domestic market, said Mandalay oil millers. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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able to publish "Letter to the Editor"
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please be aware that your letter will be
edited.Camp, ammunitions of Assam, Kathe
insurgents captured by Tatmadaw

ACTING on a tip-off that some Assam and Kathe insurgents are moving as NSCN (K) at NSCN (K) camp and environ near Takar Village of the Naga Self Administered Zone in Sagaing Region, the Tamadaw troops carried out proper security measures in those areas as from 29 January and captured the camps used by the insurgents as base.

While conducting the security measures in the areas, the Tatmadaw security force seized 15 different types of guns, ammunitions and its accessories in the ravine that is about 1600 meters away from the western part of Takar Village of on 4 February 2019.

Similarly, the Tatmadaw

security force seized 80 kinds of bullet caskets together with other accessories at the same area on 5th February, 2019.

besides, the troops also captured another camp at 1600 meters away from the western part of Takar Village.

To prevent infiltration of insurgents into the Naga Self-Administered Zone and to provide the security and stability in the region, the Tatmadaw columns continue to carry out security measures in the areas, according to the news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Myayee Nanda affordable housing to be sold to public

MANDALAY City Development Committee (MCDC) is planning to sell units in the Myayee Nanda affordable housing complex to not only government staff and retired service personnel, but also to non-governmental employees, according to the MCDC.

"The affordable housing complexes were sold, for the first time, only to government staff and retired service personnel in August, 2018. At this time, MCDC is planning to sell Mya Yee Nanda apartments to not only government staff and retired personnel, but also to non-governmental employees. However, MCDC has yet to finalize this," said U Kyaw Hsan Myint, a member of MCDC.

The housing complexes

will be sold through both down payment system and installment system through bank loans.

"MCDC is making arrangements to sell these apartments to those who will really stay there. Moreover, MCDC will upgrade the roads and erect electric lamp posts for regional development," he added. A total of 140 buildings will be constructed in the affordable housing project. Thirty-two buildings were completed in May, 2018. Additionally, 672 apartments from 32 buildings will be sold for K 26 million for the ground floor, K 24 million for the first floor, K 22 million for the second floor, K 21 million for the third floor, K 20 million for the fourth floor and K 19 million for the fifth floor. MCDC will



An affordable housing units seen in Mandalay. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

also inspect these apartments to determine whether the owners of these apartments are actually living in the apartments during a five-year period. If MCDC

finds that apartments have been resold, MCDC will take back these apartments, according to regulations.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Dragon fruit growers happy with increased profits

DRAGON fruit growers are happy with increased profits, according to Dragon fruit growers. Most farmers are growing dragon fruits on their farms and beside their homes in Yenangyoung and Chauk townships in Magway Region. Dragon fruits are grown by digging into ground water. Previously, dragon fruits were grown with the use of wood pillars. Now, growers are making concrete pillars to grow their dragon fruits.

The costs of growing dragon fruits are between K 500,000

and K 800,000, said farmers. Farmers can often sell between 2,000 and 3,500 fruits per week, said a fruit grower. Dragon fruits are a perennial crop and if planted, they will grow for ten years. Dragon fruit plants blossom in four months. "We can sell 800 fruits every three days. We are selling dragon fruits for K 70,000 for 100 fruits in the wholesale market, and we can earn K 500,000 every three months", said a farmer.

Farmers sell dragon fruits for between K 700 and K 1,000 per fruit. But, they are sold for



Dragon fruits plants cultivated in a garden in Chauk. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

between K 850 and K1,200 in the market, said a local dragon fruit

grower.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Two-thirds of Himalayan glaciers could melt, study warns



Glaciers in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya region are a critical water source for some 250 million people in the mountains as well as to 1.65 billion others in the river valleys below, the report said. **PHOTO: AFP**

KATHMANDU (Nepal) — Two-thirds of Himalayan glaciers, the world's "Third Pole", could melt by 2100 if global emissions are not sharply reduced, scientists warned in a major new study issued on Monday.

Even if the most ambitious Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) is achieved, one-third of the glaciers would go, according to the Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment.

Glaciers in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya (HKH) region are a critical water source for some 250 million people in the mountains as well as to 1.65 billion others in the river valleys below, the report said.

The glaciers feed 10 of the world's most important river systems, including the Ganges, Indus, Yellow,

Mekong and Irrawaddy, and directly or indirectly supply billions of people with food, energy, clean air and income.

Impacts on people from their melting will range from worsened air pollution to more extreme weather. Lower pre-monsoon river flows will throw urban water systems and food and energy production off-kilter, the study warned.

Five years in the making, the 650-page report was published by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Nepal, one of eight countries on the front line.

More than 350 researchers and policy experts, 185 organisations, 210 authors, 20 editors and 125 external reviewers contributed to its completion.

"Global warming is

on track to transform the frigid, glacier-covered mountain peaks... cutting across eight countries to bare rocks in a little less than a century," Philippus Wester of ICIMOD said in a statement.

"This is the climate crisis you haven't heard of."

Thinning, retreating

The 2015 Paris Agreement vowed to cap global warming "well below" two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

In December, the UN climate forum agreed on a common rule book to implement the accord, but failed to deliver fresh commitments to reduce planet-warming greenhouse gases.

Voluntary pledges cur-

rently in place would see Earth heat up by more than 3C, a recipe for widespread human misery, say scientists.

The new report notes that a 1.5°C increase in global temperatures would mean a rise of at least 2.1C in the Himalayas region. If emissions continue unabated, the roof of the world would warm by an unlivable 5°C.

"This is a landmark piece of work," commented Jemma Wadham, a professor of glaciology at the University of Bristol in England who did not contribute to the report.

"The discovery that a third of the Himalayan glaciers could disappear signals potentially disastrous consequences for river flows, pollution and managing natural hazards associated with extreme events for more than one billion people."

The Himalayan glaciers, which formed some 70 million years ago, are highly sensitive to changing temperatures. Since the 1970s, they have thinned and retreated, and the area covered by snow and snowfall has sharply decreased.

As the glaciers shrink, hundreds of risky glacial lakes can burst and unleash floods. Satellite data shows that numbers of such lakes in the region grew to 4,260 in a decade from 3,350 in 1990.—AFP ■

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Visitors look at the tomb of German revolutionary philosopher Karl Marx, a Grade I-listed monument, with the marble plaque on the front showing damage from recent vandalism in Highgate Cemetery in north London on 5 February, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tomb of Karl Marx vandalized in London

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Vandals have damaged the London tomb of Karl Marx in what the cemetery said on Tuesday appeared to be a sustained and targeted attack.

A marble plaque with the names of Marx and his family—the monument's oldest and most fragile part—was repeatedly hit with a blunt metal instrument, Ian Dungavell, who runs the cemetery trust, told AFP on Tuesday.

The damage was reported to the police on Monday.

"The name of Karl Marx seems to have been particularly singled out, so it wasn't just a random smashing up of a monument—it seems a very targeted attack," said Dungavell, chief executive of the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust, the charity which runs the graveyard.

German revolutionary philosopher Marx moved to London in 1849 and lived in the British capital for the rest of his life. His theories became the basis for communism. He died on March 14, 1883, aged 64. The granite slab monument in north London, 12 feet (3.7 metres) tall and topped

with a bronze bust of Marx, was funded in 1956 by the Communist Party of Great Britain. The inset 1880s marble plaque that has been damaged came from the original, simpler grave.

The lettering and stonework was damaged, particularly around Marx's name, the date of his wife's death and the name of their grandson Harry Longuet, who died aged four.

"I'm personally upset by the physical violence. There was a person there not once, but again and again banging at this with some blunt metal instrument," said Dungavell. "It's particularly naive to think that by a few hammer blows, you're going to encourage sympathy for anti-Marxist views."

'Never be the same'

The monument has been attacked before. The bust has been pulled off, it was attacked with a pipe bomb in the 1970s and it has been daubed with paint and slogans. "It's battle-scarred and has all the marks of a rich and varied life," said Dungavell. "It's not irreparable but it will never be the same again."

He said most people would find attacking a grave repugnant, particularly as it was also the tomb of his wife and other family members.

The tomb is a Grade I-listed monument, meaning it is among the most important sites in Britain that must be protected and preserved as a heritage asset.

It is owned by the Marx Grave Trust, a wing of the Marx Memorial Library in London.

Dungavell said the repair attempts would require a specialist stone restorer and an expert to reinstate the lettering.

The repairs would most likely have to include cleaning off the rust marks, consolidating the surface so that moisture ingress in the cracks does not cause future damage, and possibly cosmetically toning down the bright white newly exposed marble so it blends in. Police said they had completed their initial inquiries and the investigation had been closed. No arrests have been made. "If any further information comes to light, this will be investigated accordingly," a police spokesman said.—AFP ■

'The Sisters Brothers' Western wins big at Paris film awards

PARIS (France)—The Sisters Brothers" was the big winner at the Paris foreign press film awards late Monday, taking best film, best director, and best cinematography. The Western starring Joaquin Phoenix and John C Reilly had already pipped Alfonso Cuarón and "Roma" to best director at the Venice film festival last year. It is the first film French director Jacques Audiard, best known for the Oscar-nominated "A Prophet", has made in the US.

The other big winner was comedian Alex Lutz who won best actor and best music for "Guy", his homage to the glories of French 1970s pop music in which he also stars.

Elodie Bouchez won best actress for "Pupille" ("In Safe Hands"), an adoption drama which has been one of the big French critical hits of the year, with Ophélie Bau winning best female newcomer for her performance in "Mektoub My Love" by Abdellatif Kechiche of "Blue Is the Warmest Colour" fame. Best male newcomer was won by Felix Maritaud for his remarkable turn as a male prostitute in "Sauvage". He had earlier won the rising star award at the Cannes film festival.

"Samouni Road", a partly animated film about an Israeli atrocity in the Gaza Strip by Italian Stefano Savona, won best documentary.—AFP ■



US actor John C Reilly (l), his wife Alison Dickey (2l), French guionist Thomas Bidegain (2r) and French director Jacques Audiard pose on the Red Carpet before the screening of his film "The sisters brothers" during the 66th San Sebastian Film Festival, in the northern Spanish Basque city of San Sebastian on 27 September, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Singer Pink honored with Hollywood Walk of Fame star

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Pop singer Pink was honored on Tuesday with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, telling fans gathered for the event that it was "surreal" to receive the award. "I feel like I'm dreaming and if anyone pinches me, I'm gonna punch them in the left eyebrow," the Grammy-nominated singer said at the ceremony, surrounded by her husband and two children.

"I feel like a lot of people probably only thought I would make it to the walk of shame, but here I am," the 39-year-old singer-songwriter added. Pink, whose real name is Alecia Moore, reflected on her beginnings in the music industry, paying tribute to her father who, she said, encouraged her to pursue her dreams.

"Today for me is a celebration of something that my dad taught me and that is—to thine own self be true," she said.

"There is a power in believing in yourself, there is a power in not giving up on life and not giving up on yourself," she added.

Pink has received 20 Grammy nominations and three wins over her career. On Sunday, she will be vying for another Grammy for best pop vocal album for "Beautiful Trauma." Since her debut in 2000, she has released seven studio albums and has sold more than 50 million records.

Ellen DeGeneres, who spoke at Tuesday's ceremony and who uses a Pink song for her daytime talk show, described the singer as "a badass rock star" and a person who has remained true to herself.

"Even though she is a huge international star, she is the most normal grounded person that you will ever meet," DeGeneres said.

Pink got her start in the music business as a member of the girl group Choice and her career took off after that.—AFP ■

HBO sets start of production for 'Game of Thrones' prequel pilot

LOS ANGELES—HBO's "Game of Thrones" prequel pilot now has a filming start date.

The as-yet-untitled project, featuring Naomi Watts, will begin production in early summer, HBO programming president Casey Bloys told The Wrap.

The news follows the prequel landing director SJ Clarkson last month and announcing its

full cast which is led by Watts, Naomi Ackie and Denise Gough.

Bloys has previously said that a prequel will not air until at least a year after the epic-fantasy drama concludes.

The prequel's showrunner is Jane Goldman and the series will be based on a concept she developed with author George RR Martin.—PTI ■



Photo taken in June 2012 shows a Japanese supercomputer called K, in Kobe, western Japan.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Japan's K supercomputer, once world's No 1, to retire in August

KOBE — Japan's supercomputer "K" will retire in August to give way to a cutting-edge successor; the government-backed research institute Riken said on Wednesday.

The first supercomputer in the world to achieve a computing speed of over 10 quadrillion computations per second will end operations after nearly seven years and will be replaced by a successor, which is still under development, in around 2021 or 2022 at the same research center in Kobe, western Japan.

The K went into full-scale operation in September 2012 after about six years of joint development by Riken and major Japanese computer maker Fujitsu Ltd at a cost of some 111 billion yen (\$1 billion).

Fujitsu is also involved in the development of the next-generation supercomputer, which has a computing capacity 100 times that of its predecessor. The new com-

puter is expected to contribute to a variety of projects including earthquake and tsunami damage projections and analysis of big data.

The K has been utilized for data calculation in various fields such as weather forecast, semiconductor development and medical researches, but outside researchers and private businesses will be unable to use it after 16 August, with the entire system shutting down by the end of the same month, according to Riken.

Much of the old supercomputer will be scrapped, with the costs expected to reach a few hundred million yen.

In June 2011, the K, which means 10 quadrillion in Japanese, ranked first in the world in computing speed and did so again in November that year even before the start of its operations at Riken. According to the "Top 500" list of the world's 500 fastest supercomputers made biannually

by researchers, the United States ranked top with its supercomputer "Summit" in November 2018. China had held first place from 2013 until June 2018, when the United States regained top spot.

The K supercomputer became the subject of controversy in 2009 as then-ruling Democratic Party of Japan lawmaker Renho, who was then a member of a government panel seeking to cut spending for less urgent items in the national budget, questioned whether Japan needed to pursue the No 1 position amid an economic crisis.

Her remark led to a panel decision that the project should be frozen, but it triggered a storm of criticism from domestic scientists including Nobel laureate in chemistry Ryoji Noyori, a former president of Riken. The government rescinded the panel's decision in its budget for fiscal 2010, allowing the project to continue. —Kyodo News ■

Women's brains appear 'years younger' than men's: study

WASHINGTON (United States) — Women tend to outlive men and stay mentally sharp longer, and a new study out Monday could explain why: female brains appear on average about three years younger.

The study enrolled 121 women and 84 men, who underwent PET scans to measure brain metabolism, or the flow of oxygen and glucose in their brains.

Like other organs in the body, the brain uses sugar as fuel. But just how it metabolizes glucose can reveal a lot about the brain's metabolic age.

Subjects ranged from their 20s to 80s, and across those age spans, women's brains appeared metabolically younger than men's, said the findings in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a peer-reviewed US journal. A machine-learned algorithm showed that women's brains were on average about 3.8 years younger than their chronological ages. And when compared to men, male brains were about 2.4 years older than their true ages.

"It's not that men's brains age faster," said senior author Manu Goyal, assistant professor of radiology at Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis. "They start adulthood about three years older than women, and that persists throughout life," said Goyal.

But why?

One theory is that hormones might begin shaping brain metabolism at a young age, setting females on a pattern that is more youthful throughout their lives, compared to men. Scientists hope to find out if metabolic differences in the brain may play a protective role for women, who tend to score better than men on cognitive tests of reason, memory and problem solving in old age.

It "could mean that the reason women don't experience as much cognitive decline in later years is because their brains are effectively younger," said Goyal.

More work is underway to confirm and better understand the implications of the research. — AFP ■

Facebook lets senders undo sent Messenger missives

SAN FRANCISCO (United States) — Facebook on Tuesday added a Messenger feature for anyone who has fired off a comment they regretted — a way to take it back.

Messenger users will now have a 10-minute window after sending a message to undo it, leaving behind a note telling everyone in a conversation that the remark was removed, according to the leading online social network.

"Have you ever accidentally sent a message to the wrong group of friends, mistyped something, or simply wanted to remove a message in a chat?" Facebook asked rhetorically.

"You're not the only one! Starting today, we are launching a feature where you can easily remove your message on Messenger." Facebook owns the mobile messaging application used by more than a billion people. — AFP ■

Russian space firm develops solar panel with folding wing

MOSCOW — Specialists of the Reshetnev Information Satellite Systems Company have developed a new solar panel with its wing capable of both opening up and folding in orbit, the space firm said in an article published in its corporate newspaper on Monday.

"By creating it [the solar panel folding wing], the Reshetnev specialists responded to the trend emerging in cosmonautics. The maneuverability of satellites, for example, tugs, which deliver space vehicles from support to

geostationary or burial orbits, can be increased through the folding of solar panels — this solution is offered by the Reshetnev specialists. No analogues were found in world practice and, therefore, the mechanism of the solar panel wing folding in orbit is our enterprise's patented know-how, the article says.

As the basis, the Reshetnev specialists used the solar panel's wing consisting of three sections, each with the dimension of three square meters. In the developers'

opinion, the item's size does not matter: the wing with the folding function can be made for any space vehicle.

"The enterprise has already successfully tested the mechanism of the wing's unfolding and folding. Now the satellite developers are waiting impatiently for the flight experiment," the article says. The Reshetnev specialists have also offered a solution for making the production of solar panels cheaper, the article says. —Tass ■



Researchers have also offered a solution for making the production of solar panels cheaper. **PHOTO: TASS**



The Yangon United team celebrates the victory after beating Ceres Negros 2-1 at Pana-ad Park and Football Stadium in Bacolod City, Philippines on Tuesday. **PHOTO: YUFC**

AFC Champions League: Myanmar's Yangon United secures round 2 after beating Ceres Negros

YANGON United, representing Myanmar, secured a spot on Tuesday in the preliminary round 2 of the 2019 AFC Champions League after defeating the Philippines football club Ceres Negros at Pana-ad Park and Football Stadium in Bacolod City, Philippines. Yangon won a 2-1 victory, assisted by Yangon players Miller and Kaung Htet Soe.

At the kick-off, Yangon United was forced to ensure they

played consistently, with a two-fold defense style. Yangon scored the icebreaker after kicking a foul ball by Yangon's Miller at the 27 minute mark, which travelled directly into the net. But the host team scored an equalizer at 44 minutes by Scherock to end the first half with a score of 1-1.

In the second half, Yangon changed its tactics, with Kaung Htet Soe substituting.

Although the Philippine team

made special efforts to lead the match, substitute Kaung Htet Soe scored the double to move ahead at 58 minutes, with an assist by Mg Mg Lwin. The final minutes saw Yangon's brilliant two fold defense and counter attacks, which were difficult for Ceres Negros to equalize with a goal.

At the final whistle, Yangon United won 2-1 over Ceres Negros. "Ceres is a good team to face and it was a difficult match.

But my players kept their concentration during the entire match — from the kick-off to the final whistle," said Myo Min Tun, head coach of the Yangon United.

"I want to thank all of my players for a great performance," he added. Due to the victory over Ceres, Yangon United advanced to the preliminary round 2 and will face Chiangrai United on 12 February in Thailand.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

VUC, MIC shine in Myanmar Futsal League Week-15

THE week-15 matches of the Myanmar Futsal League were completed yesterday with notched double digits, lopsided wins by two of futsal's shining teams, VUC and MIC of the MFF's Myanmar Futsal League, which were played at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon.

Yesterday's matches saw MIC FC trounce MFF U-19 Futsal team by a score of 11-2, while VUC FC defeated Myoma YTD FC 9-3.

Other matches seen yesterday by futsal fans from Yangon, who cheered all matches.

In the matches, Titan XII FC played to a 5-5 draw with White Colour FC, while UPT FC defeated Shwe Myawady FC by a score of 3-2. Another thrilling match was Comrade FC vs AMM FC, which ended by the score of 5-4, with AMM FC winning. The big scoring matches were Pyay United FC vs GV Athletic FC match, which finished with a big win of 11-1 by GV Athletic.

The week-16 matches of the Myanmar Futsal League matches will be held at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon, starting at 8 am on 9 February, according to the MFF Futsal web page.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Liverpool not feeling Premier League title heat, says Robertson

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Andy Robertson has dismissed suggestions Liverpool are starting to feel the pressure of being Premier League leaders, saying they are experiencing no more than a "blip" in their pursuit of their first title for 29 years.

Jurgen Klopp's side drew 1-1 with West Ham on Monday

after failing to beat Leicester last week, meaning they lead Manchester City by just three points with 13 games to go instead of a potential seven.

In both matches Liverpool have struggled for the fluency that had taken them to the top of the table, suggesting they could be at risk of throwing away their

advantage, just as they did in losing the title to City five years ago.

Robertson believes the loss of the injured Jordan Henderson, Joe Gomez and Trent Alexander-Arnold is having an influence but feels he and his teammates have the capacity to respond.

"I wouldn't say nerves are showing," said the 24-year-old. "Did anyone say that when City dropped points against (Crystal) Palace and Leicester (in December)? I don't think they did. It's no different for us — people talk about pressure because we've not been in this position, but it's February. —AFP ■

Messi back in training but Valverde will not take risks



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (l) and teammates attend a training session at the Joan Gamper Sports Center in Sant Joan Despi on 5 February, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

BARCELONA (Spain)—Lionel Messi returned to training on Tuesday ahead of Barcelona's Copa del Rey semi-final against Real Madrid but coach Ernesto Valverde insists he will not take any risks with his captain's fitness.

Messi is a doubt for the first leg at the Camp Nou on Wednesday after feeling discomfort in his thigh during Sunday's draw with Valencia.

The Argentinian missed training on Monday but was back with the squad on Tuesday evening. During the 15 minutes open to the media, a

smiling Messi was seen doing some light jogging and taking part in a relaxed keep-ball session.

Shortly before training, Valverde had said in a press conference: "I have not seen him yet and I don't have an answer.

"There is a training session and we will see how he is, whether he can do it and whether he is in the right condition.

"Then we will decide. If he is fit, he will play and if he is not, he will not play."

Valverde added: "It is true

that sometimes we have had doubts with players and we have waited until the last moment, and it's the same with Messi." Barca face a testing period of fixtures, including three Clasicos in the next month. The next two will come back-to-back, with the second leg of the Copa del Rey scheduled for 27 February before a La Liga fixture on 2 March, both at the Santiago Bernabeu.

There will also be two Champions League matches against Lyon to negotiate, as well as tricky league trips to Athletic Bilbao and Sevilla. —AFP ■