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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 335, 12th Waxing of Tabaung 1380 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Sunday, 17 March 2019

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses Chin State Investment and Product Fair

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the opening ceremony of Chin State Investment and Product Fair at Myanmar Convention Center in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Myint Swe attended the opening ceremony of the Chin State Investment and Product Fair held at the Myanmar Convention Center, Mindhamma road, Yangon, yesterday morning.

The event started off with an entertainment program of Chin traditional dances and a video show depicting the natural beauty of China State and investment opportunities in Chin State.

Next Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun and Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai opened the Chin State Investment and Product Fair by pressing a button.

In addressing the opening ceremony the Vice President said the aims of the Chin State Investment and Product Fair were for economic development of Chin State, to show investment opportunities in Chin State, Chin State products and services to local and foreign investors.

According to the Asia Development Bank's calculations, Myanmar's per capita income increase rate was 5.9 per cent in 2018 and 6.3 per cent increase was expected in 2019.

Reforms were conducted to create a fair and competitive environment for investment in order for the country's economy to develop. The most obvious reforms were the newly enacted Myanmar Companies Law, Myanmar Investment Law and modernizing rules, procedures and processes, raising the capacity of states and regions to support trade and investment matters, and reforms in banking sectors.

Permitting more rights and entitlement to the private sector was one of the main pillars of the government's economic reform program. The aims of these actions were to create mid and long term job opportunities, sustain economic development and to attract investments.

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Over 300 acres of farmland returned in Pakokku District

OVER 300 acres of farmland in six townships in Magway Region were released by government departments and returned to 108 farmers yesterday, in the presence of Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

A ceremony to return the farmland was held at the Town Hall in Magway yesterday, where temporary land use certificates were presented to 128 farmers in the region.

Out of 877.49 acres released by government departments, over 300 acres were returned to farmers and some 570 acres were also returned to the government, as land to be kept under the management of the government.

"It is found that some land confiscation issues are not right, not because of dishonesty, but because of not understanding the laws, and some are not right because of dishonesty. Therefore, the land confiscation issues should be resolved within the framework of the law and courageously, systematically and with goodwill and compassion by committees at different levels," said the Vice President, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands.

"Solving farmland confiscations involves scrutinizing documents and ownership to know if they are in conformity with the law. The task is also needed to take time to handle the issues on the ground, as there are inadequate documents and records," he said.

"To solve the issue without mistakes and losses, great care is taken to ensure the accuracy of the work," said U Henry Van Thio, "When implementing the work, we are solving the issues as fairly as possible, and with sympathy and compassion."

Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the speech at the ceremony to return farmland to owners at the Town Hall in Magway yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA

The central committee, formed in May 2016, established regions and state-level sub-committees for scrutinizing land confiscation issues, and laid down a 52-point work process to solve the issues.

The lands were released by No. 5 Textile Factory of the Ministry of Industry in Pakokku Township, Myanma Timber Enterprise of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Seikpyu Township, a tank battalion from the Ministry of Defence, and the Agricultural Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Magway Township. Land was also turned over by the Acid Factory of the Ministry Electricity and Energy in Chauk Township, Horse and Sheep Farm of the Ministry of Industry in Taundwingyi Township and the Agricultural Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Minhla Township.

Solving farmland confiscation issues would result in decreasing the migrant populations leaving their farmlands in search of job opportunities in cities and in overseas countries, and decreasing the number of skilled labourers leaving to seek employment in foreign countries.

The Vice President urged the farmers to work hard and honestly, to raise their living standards and to produce high-quality agricultural produce, without losing sight of the transition from traditional farming to mechanized farming.

He also expressed thanks to the departments concerned for releasing the farmland.

Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo, Chairman of the Magway Region Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands, reported on those measures being taken for solving the issues in the region. Officials of the government departments presented documents related to releasing the farmlands to Pakokku District Administrator U Kyaw Arnt Maung. The officials also presented temporary land use permit form-3 to the rightful farmers. — MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

AA insurgents torch a vessel carrying steel frames for Paletwa Bridge project

AA insurgents have attacked civilian targets, harassing and injuring unarmed civilians, as a vessel carrying steel frames for the Paletwa Bridge project was set on fire by AA insurgent yesterday morning.

MV-Yadana Win 7, carrying 300 steel frames weighing 286.23 tons for the Paletwa Bridge project, left Yangon on 10 March and sailed to Paletwa via Sittway and Kyauktaw. The vessel was near Namada Village, Paletwa Township, Chin State when AA insurgents directed small-arms fire at the vessel and forced it to dock by the river bank. They then abducted the ship's crew and set the vessel on fire.

The vessel was carrying steel frames, paint, high tension bolts and other bridge construction materials, valued at more than Ks 1.072 billion.

The abducted crew from the vessel were later released and returned to the Special Bridge Group 1 project site, according to the Myanmar Police Force. — MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

AA insurgents attack the vessel carrying steel frames for Paletwa Bridge project yesterday.

Vice President U Myint Swe poses for a documentary photo with attendees at the opening ceremony of the Chin State Investment and Product Fair in Yangon on 16 March. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses Chin State Investment …

FROM PAGE-1

As part of Myanmar's reform program Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) was drawn up and adopted. The aim of this plan was having mutual harmony between the country's policy goals and organizations in establishing ways to achieve economic development that was all-inclusive. In addition to being an appropriate road map for foreign investors, this plan recognizes the importance of foreign investment. Furthermore, work processes will be established to remove restrictive policies that were hindering trade and investment.

To raise foreign and local investments and develop the economic environment the Government had introduced the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan in 2018. As Private Sector Development (PSD) played an important role in the country's economic development, PSD Framework and processes were established in 2016, the PSD Committee formed and works implemented.

The PSD Framework was drawn up to close the gap between the views of the cooperating participants and reality, understand the difficulties faced by the business persons and to use as a road map. Arrangements were also being made to upgrade the PSD Framework. It will be in the five pillars of improving legal and procedural environment, acquisition of financing, supporting and increasing trade and investment, establishing basic human resources and redefining the State's role in the trade and service sectors.

The economic environment of all the states and regions will be raised as part of a wide ranging reform. The power of private investments will be used to resolve the challenges of poverty and inequality and to create a better social environment.

The government would coordinate project implementation via a Project Bank to create job opportunities and for private sector development. A Project Bank will soon be published and announced for basic infrastructure priority projects of states and regions including Chin State. The Project Bank also aimed to coordinate the government's budget allocation, ease the provisioning of supports for private sector and investment and to realign toward the goals and strategies of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP).

As doors were swung open to increase local and foreign investment into the country, opportunities were increasing via political and economic reforms. Even though the challenge of inadequate infrastructure still remained, these challenges could be converted into an opportunity.

Myanmar was located like a bridge between China and India and was in a unique geographical situation of being a link to ASEAN. The country thus had numerous economic opportunities. Chin State being part of this strategically important country and bordering India indicated obvious market opportunities.

In addition to conducting direct and transit-trades through the Mekong-India economic corridor it would support the development of industrial zones and special economic zones along the corridor.

> The economic environment of all the states and regions will be raised as part of a wide ranging reform. The power of private investments will be used to resolve the challenges of poverty and inequality and to create a better social environment.

Investment opportunities in Chin State varies from huge projects to SMEs level in agriculture, livestock breeding, people based travel, hydropower, basic infrastructure development works, traditional weaving etc.

Various investment opportunities in Chin State could be found in agriculture, livestock breeding, people based travel, hydropower, basic infrastructure development works, traditional weaving etc. varying from huge projects to SME level ventures.

The Chin State lay on the strategic economic corridor between India and Myanmar and as the bilateral trade increased there would be more strong and firm opportunities. The ongoing transport, communication and basic infrastructure works were also inviting investment opportunities.

Investors could understand the investment opportunities in Chin State through this fair and were expected to firmly grasp the great prospects. Visitors were also invited to visit Chin State to view in person the beauty of Chin State as well as see first-hand the investment opportunities and invest, urged the Vice President.

After delivering his speech the Vice President took a commemorative group photo with ceremony attendees.

Afterwards he observed the investment opportunity exhibits displayed by government departments and private companies, products and cultural exhibits of Chin State.

Later, the opening ceremony was continued as per the agenda and officials from government departments, the private sector and foreign experts conducted talks on investment opportunities in the Chin State.

The ceremony was attended by Union Ministers Dr. Than Myint and U Thaung Tun; Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo; Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai; Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein; Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker; Chin State High Court Chief Judge; Chin State government ministers; Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and State Hluttaw representatives; ambassadors and diplomats from embassies in Myanmar; Myanmar Investment Commission members; Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry President and central executive committee members; officials from the United Kingdom Department for International Development (UK DFID), Da Na Facility and DVB Loi Co., Ltd.; development partner organisations; departmental officials; local and foreign business persons and news media.

This fair will be held until 17 March, it is learnt. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS
Zaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Win Ko Ko Aung

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR
Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM
Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLM

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Visitors flock to caves across Kayin State after matriculation exams

KAYIN State, with its many natural landscapes, saw an increase in visitors from home and abroad following the end of nationwide matriculation examinations, said a tourist police officer.

"Tourist police are putting forth continuous efforts to protect visitors from possible risks, including traffic accidents and crimes. Police are deployed in crowded places across the region," noted the officer.

Kayin State is a popular tourism site because of its natural beauty and indigenous culture.

The well-known limestone caves here include Sadan Cave, Kawgun Cave, Yathepyan Cave, Kawkathoung Cave and Bayinnyi Cave.

U Dhamma Pala, a Sayadaw from Kawgun Cave Pagoda, noted, "Between 2,000 and 3,000 local visitors, plus around 50 foreign travellers, visit the Kawgun Cave per day. The majority of foreigners come from France and Germany.

Holiday-makers and students made a visit to the Kawkathoung Cave in Kayin State after their matricualtion examination was over. **PHOTO : MIN THU (HPA-AN)**

We donate meals to all visitors, especially on significant religious days and weekends, also arranging accommodations for late comers at the religious community halls."

Organized by their teachers, students, especially from Kayin and Mon states who recently took matriculation examinations, visited limestone caves, waterfalls, and other destinations.—Min Thu (Hpa-an) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Priority sectors of NES to be implemented in seven states, regions

By Aye Yamon Oo

UNDER the National Export Strategy (NES) (2020-2025), priority sectors will be the focus in seven states and regions to encourage exports and achieve the goals of the digital economy, said Dr. Than Myint, the Union Minister of Commerce.

He addressed a gathering on 15 March at the e-Commerce Payment Platforms for Digital Economy event at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Yangon.

"We need to support the development of exports, as a plan to be put in place for five years through Myanmar trade and investment projects. While carrying out the programme, we need to seek opinions from the stakeholders' symposium, initially. Then, we need to put in place the development of trade and investments in states and regions to bring about the development of exports and meet the digital economy goals," he added.

E-commerce payment systems are being widely developed, with the hope that the public and entrepreneurs will use this system. The digital economy sector was also listed in NES (2020-2025).

The Ministry of Commerce is taking the leading role, with the assistance of the UK Department for International Development-DFID and the technical assistance of the International Trade Centre (ITC) to draw NES (2020-2025), which offers seven prioritized sectors and four supporting sectors.

"The first five-year phase of the NES project (2015-2019) was already completed. This is the second phase of NES (2020-2025). We have completed some areas of the first phase of the project. There are also some projects getting underway. So, we need to implement those things systematically in the second phase of the project. The Ministry said that we need to develop the export sector by three times. To boost the export sector, we could not implement every sector at the same time," said U Ye Min Aung, the chairman of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Moreover, plans for overcoming competitive pressures, effectively controlling the performance management system, and accelerating the export momentum to encourage development of the project in order to increase the Myanmar Industrial Promotion, to be put in the NES (2020-2025).

"We have planned to add some destinations to improve opportunities for export entrepreneurs and Myanmar Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) in local and world trade. The second five-year phase of NES (2020-2025) supports the traditional export sector's development, as well as guides the emergence of new exporters. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Uncut amber rocks seized at Mayankahtaung checkpoint in Kachin

MOKAUNG Township Police on Friday seized nearly 22.9 kg of suspected uncut amber rocks at Mayankahtaung checkpoint in Mokaung Township, Kachin State.

Police intercepted an express bus on the Myintmyatthu bus line heading from Tanai to Myitkyina at the checkpoint around 2 p.m. on 15 March. Inside the bus, they discovered 17 bags, including amber rocks weighing almost 22.9 kg., and confiscated them.

According to investigators, the uncut amber rocks were owned by three middle-age women—Ma Gu Lu Mi, Daw San San Aye and Daw Kyawt Kyawt Khine.

The 47-year-old driver, Khin Maung Win of Tantse Township, Sagaing Region, and four other suspects were arrested and charged with the illegal transport of precious stones, in violation of the Myanmar Gemstone Law. —Win Naing (Kachinmye)■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

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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.

MRF seeks solution for over 40,000 tons of rice being held at Muse Trade Zone

By Aye Yamon Oo

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) has requested the Private Sector Development Committee led by the Vice President 1 to talk with the Chinese government over the issue of 40,000 tons of rice to a standstill at Muse Trade Zone.

The Chinese authorities earlier seized the rice, which had been exported by Myanmar, said U Ye Min Aung, chairman of MRF.

He made his request at the 25th regular meeting, held between the Vice President 1 and the entrepreneurs on 15th March at the Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Yangon.

"Our MRF raised five points at this meeting. The main point is that over 40,000 tons of rice are being held at the Muse border trade. So, our small and medium entrepreneurs from Muse, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady and Bago are being faced with difficulties. We have urged the authorities to resolve this matter with the Chinese government," said U Ye Min Aung, chairman of MRF.

MRF has requested that authorities hold government-to-government discussions to ensure smooth exports of rice to China, and to receive a good price at the rice harvest time for local farmers and the small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Additionally, MRF has requested the authorities to coordinate with the buyers or the government of Yunnan Province for releasing some 40,000 tons of rice being held at the Muse border crossing.

"Myanmar has already received its quota to export rice and broken rice to China. So, authorities should focus on the memorandum of understanding (MoU). In Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank provided loans amounting to K 150,000 per acre for 10 acres. So, we have requested to grant the loans in Rakhine State for the development of Rakhine State," he added.

"This will usher in the summer paddy harvest time very soon. We have requested the authorities to employ the government-to-government channel. We have already submitted the basic rice prices to the government. We will circulate the notice letter as soon as we receive it from the authorities," said U Ye Min Aung.

Moreover, the 2nd China Myanmar Economic Corridor Forum, which was held from 18 to 23 February in Yunnan State, China, was attended by U Soe Win, the Union Minister for Planning and Finance, and officials from UMFCCI and MRF. Myanmar has coordinated to receive quotas to export 400,000 tons of rice to China in 2019.

Myanmar has planned to export rice and broken rice to China, while China will import fertilizer, electrical products and construction materials under the China-Myanmar government commodities exchange program, according to MRF. ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Border trade value hits $4.3 bln in current fiscal year

THE value of border trade from 1 October to 8th March this fiscal year hit US$4.33 billion, recording an increase of $323 million when compared to that in the same period of last year, according to the statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

The total border trade value included $3.09 billion in exports and $1.24 billion in imports. This time last year, border trade was valued at $4 billion.

Myanmar is trading with her neighboring countries—China, India, Bangladesh and Thailand. Sino-Myanmar border trade is carried out through Muse, Lweje, Kanpiketee, Chin Shwe Haw and Kengtung gates while Myanmar is carrying out border trade with India via Tamu and Reed. The country's border trade gates with Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtaw as well as Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, HteeKhee, Mawtaung and Maese.

The increase in export through border trade is due to the major increase in Muse border trade camps, which performed the largest trade out of all 16 border trade camps.

Among all the gates, the Muse border gate sees the largest volume and value of total border trade, with an estimated value of more than $2.2 billion this FY, followed by HteeKhee with $947 million and Myawady with $376 million.

Myanmar mainly export agricultural products, animal products as well as forest products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods and other products while capital goods, raw industrial materials and consumer products are imported into the country.

Currently, some 80 per cent of the country's external trade is carried out via sea routes.—Zwe ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Times City

The Times City Complex, which will be inaugurated soon, will have a Financial Centre for foreign investment banks, an International Commerce of Chambers Organization Center for international investment groups, house law firms of legal advisor groups at the Times City Office Tower. Organizations interested in renting office space will get a special price and discount, and are invited to visit the Times City Information Centre, located at the intersection of the Hanthawady and Kyundaw roads.

Our Information Center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to help you buy and hire, at a special price, our offices and shops in the Times City Complex, which will become a converging point for businesses, the first choice for shoppers looking for one-stop services and offering a huge opportunity to investors.

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Union Minister U Win Khaing attends opening ceremony of 225 Megawatt Natural Gas power Plant in Myingyan

Union Minister U Win Khaing and dignitaries open the 225 Mega Watt natural gas power plant in Myingyan Township yesterday. **PHOTO : MNA**

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing attended the opening ceremony of a 225 Megawatt Natural Gas Power Plant, yesterday, which was held at the power plant near the Myingyan Steel Factory, Myingyan Township, Myingyan District, and Mandalay Region. The 225 Megawatt Natural Gas power Plant was built by Sembcorp Power Myanmar Co.Ltd.

In his opening remarks at the ceremony, Union Minister U Win Khaing said that the natural gas power plant was one of the power plants and the plants is distributing a 225 megawatt to the whole country by connecting with 230 KV Myingyan-Thabyewa power line. In supplying the power line, efforts would be made to be the stable, reliable and good-quality power supplier to the people. In doing so, people could enjoy the benefits of power outages, steady power consumption and higher-usage of electricity. During the past years, there were several power breakdowns and we could now reduce the system break downs significantly. Implementation would be made not to occur again the system breakdown. There would have auxiliary power plants which could made stable, reliable and good quality power supply. Arrangements were being made to produce another 3000 megawatt that is available in three years.

Out of 10.877 households in Myanmar, there was some 4.709 million (43 per cent) households that had gained the electricity supply, and there still remained some 6.168 (57 per cent) millions of households that remained to get the electricity supply. In an effort to fulfill the requirements of the people, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy has been striving hard with the use of funding from the Pyidaungsu Finance fund and Region / State's funding. About 50 per cent of the households would get access to electricity in November. Efforts were being made to supply the electricity (55 per cent) and above amount in 2021 and 75 per cent of electricity in 2026 while priority is given to supply the electricity to the whole country.

Then Mr. Chee Hong Tat, the Senior Minister of State for Trade, Industry and Education, Mandalay Region Electricity and Industry Minister U Zar Ni Aung, Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar and CEO of Sembcory Industries Ltd Mr. Neil McGregor extended their greetings and played video records. Following that, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Aung Myo Latt expressed his thanks at the event.

Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing, U Hlaing Win, Committee Chairman of Mandalay Region Industry, Energy and Electricity Affairs Committee U Hlaing Win, Mandalay Region Electricity and Industry Minister U Zar Ni Aung, Myingyan Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Sein Myint and U Sit Aye, managing director and members of SMC opened the event with a ribbon-cutting.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Win Khaing, Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Trade, Industry and Education Mr Chee Hong Tat, Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Oo and C.E.O of Sembcorp Industries Ltd Mr. Neil McGregor opened the signboard of a commemorative inscribed stone by pressing a button and observed the compound of the factory. — MNA ■ *(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)*

Anti-Corruption Commission opens branch office in Yangon

Union Minister U Han Zaw , Chairperson of ACC U Aung Kyi and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein open ACC branch office in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO : MNA**

THE opening ceremony of the branch office of the Anti-Corruption Commission was held yesterday morning, at No. 62/A, Golden Valley Road, Bahan Township, Yangon Region. At the event, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption Commission U Aung Kyi and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new office.

In his opening address, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said that it was needed for the departmental officials to know dos and don'ts in performing their duties, as an effort to implement the work process, and which was of great important to bring about the development of the region while informative work and making changes are necessary to improve their performances. In making the democratic transition, measures have to be taken to do without any corrupt way. Thus all would strive to foster clean government and good governance.

Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission U Aung Kyi said: Opening the Yangon branch office would have functions of sharing knowledge about anti-corruption education, doing preventative works and investigation processes with effective means. The Yangon branch office would stand for a place of conducting anti-corruption talks, training centre and holding workshops and making planning and implementation process soon. Majority of the people have understood that priorities were being made to make preventive measures rather than taking actions after the crimes were committed. In fact, prevention of corruption was just taking lessons from wrong doers, and which was being made to prevent ourselves from giving lessons. We should strive for combating the corruption with might and main, in anticipation of creating a fully-fledged democratic and administrative system, which aimed at building a free and fair lifestyle.

Then Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption Commission U Aung Kyi and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein opened the branch office of the Anti-Corruption Commission cut ceremonial ribbons, sprinkled scented water on the bronze plate.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Construction, Yangon Region Chief Minister, Chairman, secretary and members of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Chairman and Vice-chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker, Yangon mayor, Vice-chairman of Myanmar Press Council, officials from UNDP, UNODC, embassies and departments, and invited guests. —MNA ■ *(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)*

State Central Working Committee of Sangha of All Orders holds first meeting

EIGHTH State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders held its first meeting at the Maha Pathana Cave on Thirimingala KabaAye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

Abhidhaja Maharahta Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa, chairman of the working committee, presided over the meeting and Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Panditta Bhaddanta Sandima Bhivamsa acted as the Master of the Ceremonies.

Also present at the meeting were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Deputy Minister U Kyi Min and employees of the ministry.

Speaking at the meeting, Chairman Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa urged the members of the working committee to enforce the rules for monks, novices and nuns

He also called for conservation of the unity of the Ganas of all Sects (Gana) of the Members of the Sangha as part of efforts for propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. At yesterday's meeting, members of the State Vinisara Committee were presented with certificates. New members elected for the committee and resolutions at the eighth meeting of the 7th State Sangha Central Working Committee and the first meeting of the 8th central working committee were put on record and signed by 15 Ovadacariya Sayadaws and by representatives of the Gana from regions and states.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

The first meeting of eighth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders being convened in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO : MNA**

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspects status of printing school text books

Deuty Minister U Aung Hla Tun visits the printing press in Mandalay Region yesterday. **PHOTO : MANN HTAT AUNG (MANN SUB PRINTING HOUSE)**

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun visited the printing businesses in Mandalay that had won the tender to print school text books for the Academic Year 2019-2020 and inspected the status of the printing works. The Deputy Minister together with Printing and Publishing Enterprise (PPE) U Aung Myo Myint and Mandalay Region Head of Education Office Deputy Director General Daw Than Myint went to Htate Tan press, Third Wave press and Yadanamo press where the school text books were being printed. At the printing presses, region printing press and publisher association patron U Tin Sein and Chairman U Tun Tun Soe explained about status of printing school text books.

Deputy Minister remarked on completing the printing work on time and as per the quality required. The Deputy Minister also said the aim of the visit was to provide assistance if any difficulties were encountered in the printing work and then inspected the printing works. From there the Deputy Minister and party went to Upper Myanmar Government Printing Press (Mandalay) in Mahaaungmye Township where an official explained about supports provided toward printing of school text books. The Deputy Minister commented where necessary and inspected the works conducted in the press. Later in the afternoon the Deputy Minister visited the Community Centre constructed in the compound of Patheinghyi Township Information and Public Relations Department with donations made the local people and inspected the children reading room and exhibits displayed.

The Deputy Minister then went on to visit Sarpay Beikman People's library and book shops opened by PPE in Region Information and Public Relations Department at Aungmyethazan Township and met with heads and staff of districts and township IPRD offices.—Mann Htat Aung (Mann Sub Printing House) ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Sixth day of 56th Gems Emporium continues in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 56th Gems Emporium continued its sixth day at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and sold a total of 858 jade lots under the open tender system.

The jade lots no. 1201 to 2400 were put up for sale, and out of which 858 jade lots were sold for Euro 78.825 million at the event.

Similarly, jade lots no. 1 to 1200 were put up for sale through an open tender system on Friday, and out of which 1,050 jade lots were reported to be sold at Euro 46.505 million. So far, a total of 1,908 jade lots were sold for Euro 125.33 million.

The 56th Gems Emporium will be held till 20 March at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall, putting up for sale the jade lots no.2401 to 3600 on 17 March, the jade lots no. 3601 to 4800 on 18 March, the jade lots no. 4801 to 6000 on 19 March, and the jade lots no. 6001 to 6973 on 20 March.

A total of 4,557 gem merchants, 2,911 merchants from China, Thailand, Australia, US and India and 1,646 domestic gem merchants have registered for the gem emporium.—Hmwe Kyu Zin ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

A good quality jade seen at the yesterday's gems emporium.
PHOTO : AYE THAN

Foreign and local traders evaluate the uncut jades in the Gems Emporum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Public commitment needs to resolve farmland confiscation issues, rather than taking advantage of the problem

SOME 70 per cent of the country's population is working for a living in the agriculture sector. However, the lands that these people depend upon for their livelihoods were confiscated beyond the scope of law after the 1988 coup. In addition to this, these lands were not used for the benefit of the country, as more lands were confiscated than used. Also, lands were not used as intended when confiscated. In order to develop the agriculture sector, the socio-economic situation of the farmers, and to return the confiscated land to the farmers, the Union Government formed the Central Committee for Reviewing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands in 2016.

> People should also participate in resolving the issue, rather than trying to find ways of taking advantage of it. All need to understand that it would be best for the entire country only when these problems have been resolved.

The issue of resolving farmland matters fairly was decided by the Hluttaw in 2012, as not much was accomplished in earlier years. However, the work on solving the issue has picked up speed month by month, and much has been accomplished.

As some 70 per cent of the country's population is relying on agriculture, the issue should be speedily resolved.

The land confiscation issue popped up only after the Hluttaw made a decision in 2012 to return the illegally confiscated lands to its former owners. But there was a clause added to the decision, saying the lands to be returned must be those confiscated after 1988.

Resolving these matters remains very difficult. The current owners did not want to release the lands, so they fabricated long drawn-out proceedings in order not to return the land.

Also, there were inadequate tools given to the administration, in reinforcing the Land Records Department. Once the Land Records Department has been provided with adequate resources, cases would be speedily assessed and resolved.

There was also corruption and an inability to perform the work properly. And when there were contradictions and problems, the courts had to resolve many issues.

Another concern was the importance of establishing clear land rights for economic reasons. Based on this, efforts were made to resolve the farmland matters as quickly as possible, not only to ensure social stability, but also for economic development.

All need to assist in this. Those who had illegally confiscated land should now return the land, instead of holding on to it. Efforts must be made from the administrative side in order to resolve the land problems faced by the people.

People should also participate in resolving the issue, rather than trying to find ways of taking advantage of it. All need to understand that it would be best for the entire country only when these problems have been resolved.

■■■

Monywa Twintaung Aspiring Geopark

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

By Than Htun (Myanmar Geosciences Society)

The standard of stone curving, parietal, sculpture and religious of ancient Myanmar can be observed at Pho Win Taung and Shwe Ba Taung which 25 kilometer west of Monywa.

Spirulina

Spirulina are discovered by Belgium scientist as blue-green algae that is high in nutrients and considered one of the nature's greatest Superfoods in 1967. In 1984 Dr Min Thein, lecturer from Mawlamyne University studied the spirulina at Twintaung crater in Budalin Township, Sagaing Division and production started in 1987-1988. The maximum production of spirulina in 1999-2000 was over 160 metric ton. In the year 2011-2012 the production declined to 20 metric ton and after 2013-2014 the production of spirulina decreased less than 10 metric ton.

Regarding the decline of production of the spirulina, the generous gift from mother earth Dr Min Thein frequently discussed with the geologists from Myanmar Geosciences Society to search for the reasons why the production had been declined. Although the professionals are producing with sustainable development they could not find the causes of unexpected failure yet. It would be the lesson how the environment and ecology are related each other and importance of collaborative effort by professionals. The establishment of Geoparks could be avoided such problems by collaborative study of environment, educating, conservation and sustainable development practices.

Despite the declination of production of spirulina the beauty of maar lake, tephra sections along the road sides, green environment are attractable to local and foreign guests, researchers and University students. This is the time to make research in Twintaung area on geology, zoology, palaeontology, microbiology, agriculture, biodiversity etc. to develop various arts and sciences. The geotourism will become developed in Sagaing Region and the conservation for environment and ecology is a significant activity. We congratulate the documentary of Channel K in February 2019 in which Chief Minister of Sagaing Region presented about 6 tourist sites in Sagaing Region.

Anythian Culture

The artefacts of famous Anyanthian Culture, Neolithic culture, were found in this area. The axe and tools made up of flint and petrified wood are found in the dry zone of Irrawaddy Valley of Upper Myanmar. In 1894 Dr. F. Noetling announced that he had found human artifacts in situ in an Upper Miocene or Lower Pliocene horizon at Yenangyaung, Upper Burma.' Whereas none of the subsequent investigators of this locality challenged the human origin of the specimens, several competent geologists and archaeologists pointed out that identical artifacts occurred in abundance on the surface of the plain some 100 feet above Noetling's alleged implementiferous stratum. This latter observation was confirmed by various members of the Joint American Southeast Asiatic Expedition during the 1937-1938 season's field-work; in fact definite evidence was obtained proving that the material in question is Post- Pleistocene in age and that it belongs to a Neolithic culture. The first Palaeolithic tools from Burma were discovered by Mr. T. 0. Morris of the Geological Survey of India during the early 1930's. Subsequent work in that country by the Joint American Southeast Asiatic Expedition for Early Man has led to the recognition of a new Lower Palaeolithic culture-the Anyathian- which is devoid of hand-axes. There are at least 14 Anyanthian Cultural sites in Myanmar so far.

Pho Win Taung and Shwe Ba Taung

The standard of stone curving, parietal, sculpture and religious of ancient Myanmar can be observed at Pho Win Taung and Shwe Ba Taung which 25 kilometer west of Monywa at Yinmabin Township in Sagaing Region. According to the Myanmar legends, the Pho Win Taung caves were once the abode of an alchemist who possessed supernatural powers. The name of the alchemist who lived in these caves was U Pho Win and in honour of him the mountain and caves were named Pho Win Taung. U Pho Win was so powerful that he could fly, survive under the water, cure manifold illnesses, turns base metals into gold. He practised Samahta Meditation to attain Siddhi or the ultimate state of renunciation.

There are more than 900 man-made caves and about 446,444 Buddha image and ancient painting on the inner wall of the caves. Most of the paintings are based on Jataka story of Buddha but due to overlap painting on the same place therefore the age of painting is impossible to estimate. It was believed that the King Bandawa donated the caves and building in 849. In 17th and 18th century the wealthy people donated Buddha Images, bells and lion images which were made up of Bronze. The bronze artefacts are, due to lack of conservation, deteriorating and the source of copper metal were considered to be carried from nearby Kyeesin Taung, Sabe Taung and Lapadaung Taung mines. If it is so we can imagine how the human beings and planet earth related each other since prehistoric days. These are the most significance value for establishing the UNESCO global Geopark in this area.

Shwe Ba Taung is located on the west bank of Chindwin river just beyond the Pho Win Taung. Tremendous amount of caves and temples are curved out from the surrounding volcanic rocks and filled with ancient Buddha Images. The 13th Century mural paintings are on the wall of the caves and proud of showing the rank of ancient arts of Myanmar.

Bronze age artefacts from ancient cemetery on the rim of the crater is invaluable Archaeological Heritage of Myanmar.

Nyaunggan Bronze Age Culture

The Nyaunggan Maar lake and bronze age artefacts from ancient cemetery on the rim of the crater is invaluable Archaeological Heritage of Myanmar. The Nyaunggan crater has lack of water before 7 years ago but the crater has received some amount of water knowing without any reason. The local farmer U Chit Hlaing discovered some artefacts when he was ploughing his farm in 1997 and he reported to Tanpawaddy U Win Maung via local carpenter U Htwa. As U Win Maung is expert in archaeology he excavated the first place at Nyaunggan grave yard and discovered earthen pots, bronze artefacts and some ceremonial stone rings. In 1998-99 the Department of Archaeology excavated Nyaunggan first time that a cemetery yielding bronze artefacts had been systematically explored. The bronze weapons and ceremonial rings in mortuary contexts gave some evidence of ranking but there has not been full analysis of these in relation to pottery, the most abundant grave good. The archaeologists pointed out that the Stone Age and Bronze Age are overlapping in Myanmar and Bronze Age would be BC1500 and Iron Age would be BC 500 respectively.

The ancient elephant fossils

The villagers from Pauk Tike reported Myanmar Geosciences Geopark Development Committee in November 2018 that they have found the teeth and jaw fossils of giant animal near the village and request to identify the kind of animal. Some petrified woods are also occurred along the creeks and on the hill top. During first week of March in 2019, Dr Yupa Thasod from Chaingmai University identified the teeth and jaw fossils and pointed out that those are fossil remains of four-tusk ancient elephant "Steglophodon", approximately 1.5 to 15 million years in age. The petrified wood and vertebrate fossils occurred at Pauk Tike in Yinmabin Township and those of Mount Popa in Kyaukpadaung Township are formed in the same environment which is sandstone and gravel beds of Irrawaddy Formation. Therefore, fossil wood and vertebrate fossil bearing Irrawaddy Formation is spreading both side of Ayeyawaddy River from Katha in the north to Yangon in the south.

The above mentioned Monywa Twintaung area of Sagaing Region occupied invaluable natural heritage, geoheritage, cultural and archaeological heritage and in addition the local and foreign tourists are significantly increasing these days. Therefore, we are confident that this is the time to establish National Geopark and UNESCO Global Geopark by collaborative effort in education, conservation and sustainable development in Monywa Twintaung area.

■■■

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(ပဲခူးမြို့)

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 15th March, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 16th March, 2019: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th March, 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th March, 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th March, 2019: Generally fair weather.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be generally fair in Naypyitaw, Yangon and Mandalay Region.

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Thingangyun People's Hospital gets new six story ward

A ceremony to open the new six-story ward of Thingangyun People's Hospital at the new ward in the hospital yesterday morning.

First Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein, hospital superintendent Dr. Daw Than Hla, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Shwe Hla Win and Yangon Region Hluttaw social and management committee chairman U Tha Aung cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new six-story ward.

Next, officials unveiled the sign board of the ward and sprinkled scented water on it.

At the ceremony Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe said Thingangyun People's Hospital was located in a strategic and densely populated area and due to the superb health care service provided, the public was relying upon it. Due to this, there was a requirement to expand the wards in the hospital and the ministry gave it a priority to construct a new six-story ward spending more than K 3,288 million. Because of this new ward the people will be able to receive treatment in a spacious place while health care personnel could also provide better and more systematic health care services.

All who participated in this endeavor from drawing up the project plan to this opening ceremony are thanked for the works while due recognition was also granted for their works.

Responsible and assigned personnel were urged to care for the new ward as their own property and provide better health care using the wide ranging treatments made available at each story of the new ward, said the Union Minister.

Afterwards an official from National Steel and Construction Co., Ltd. that constructed the new six-story ward transferred related document to Department of Medical Services Director General Dr. Soe Oo.

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe inspects the new six-story ward of Thingangyun People's Hospital yesterday. **PHOTO : MNA**

Following this Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) Chairperson Dr. San San Myint on behalf of MMCWA and on behalf of Gastrorenterologist family Professor/Department Head Dr. Than Than Aye donated K 10 million each to purchase electric vehicles to transport patients in the hospital. Officials accepted the donation and in return presented certificate of honor. The Union Minister and officials then inspected the new six-story ward. Later the Union Minister received HelpAge International (Myanmar) Country Director Mr. Godfred Paul and Program Manager Professor Anil Kumar India Krishna at Ministry of Health and Sports guest hall in Bahan Township, Yangon it is learnt.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

The 2019 K-Pop Friendship Concert being convened in Yangon yestserday. **PHOTO : MNA**

2019 K-Pop Friendship Concert held in Yangon

"THE 2019 K-Pop Friend Concert in Yangon", conducted by the embassy of the Republic of Korea, was held, yesterday evening, at the One Entertainment Park Indoor, Yangon. The event was celebrated in the 30th anniversary of the establishment of dialogue relations between ROK and ASEAN.

"The 2019 K-Pop Friendship Concert in Yangon" was attended by Union Ministers Thura U Aung Ko, U Ohn Maung, U Han Zaw, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Director General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Daw Kay Thi Soe, ambassador and officials of the ROK to Myanmar, artistes, K-Pop fans and invited guests.

At the concert, a video-message delivered by the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was made and Union Ministers and Yangon Region Chief Minister flew the mini kites, to mark the promoting Myanmar-Korea bilateral relationship and cultural exchange, together with children from Myanmar and the ROK.

Then K-Pop members BOYFRIEND, NOIR, AFRIL and Rose Quartz entertained the performance and Myanmar K-Pop fans enjoyed the concert.

Ma Myat Phyu Phyu Soe, who is from South Oakkalapa Township, said that she has come here to enjoy the K-Pop songs. She often goes to the local musical concerts, and which was the first time to see the K-Pop performance. The 2019 K-Pop Friendship Concert is being held in many countries, where K-pop culture has grown, and similar K-Pop Friendship Concert was celebrated in the Philippines in February.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)*

Book-lovers buying books at the Yangon Book Street yesterday. **PHOTO : THANT ZIN WIN**

Yangon Book Street sees rising numbers of children book sales

AS it is the summer holiday period of the schools, Yangon Book Street saw a rising sales in children books.

As preparations were underway to hold Children's Literary Festival (Bago) children book publishers were being brought together, and according to Ko Phyo of Sein Moe Yan Book Shop, there were a total of 36 children book shops at the Yangon Book Street.

Ko Aung Phyo and wife from Athoke Village, Yekyi Township, Ayeyawady Region who came to buy children books said, "Our son is a little older than one year and he still wouldn't understand much if we read this book to him but at least he'll repeat what we read and hopefully become interested in reading later."

On Sunday, there'll be book introductions by authors at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. said an official at the Yangon Book Street.—Thant Zin Win ■

Endorsement of Myanmar Standards Adoption

IN accordance with duties and function of section 5, article b and vested mandate of section 33 article (b) of Law on Standardization, National Standards Council endorses the following 43 standards to adopt as Myanmar Standards.

No.	Myanmar Standards
1.	MMS 2:2019 Drinking Water Quality Standard
2.	MMS CODEX STAN 210:1999 Vegetable Oils Standard
3.	MMS ASEAN STAN 11:2008 Watermelon Standard
4.	MMS CODEX STAN 197:1995 Avocado Standard
5.	MMS CODEX STAN 205:1997 Bananas Standard
6.	MMS ASEAN STAN 31:2013 Coffee Bean Standard
7.	MMS CODEX STAN 214:1999 Pummelos Standard
8.	MMS ISO/IEC 17011:2017 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies
9.	MMS ISO/IEC 17007:2009 Conformity assessment -- Guidance for drafting normative documents suitable for use for conformity assessment
10.	MMS ISO/IEC 17020:2012 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection
11.	MMS ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 1: Requirements
12.	MMS ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 2: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of environmental management systems
13.	MMS ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 3: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of quality management systems
14.	MMS ISO/IEC TS 17021-4:2013 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 4: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of event sustainability management systems
15.	MMS ISO/IEC TS 17021-5:2014 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 5: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of asset management systems
16.	MMS ISO/IEC TS 17021-6:2014 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 6: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of business continuity management systems
17.	MMS ISO/IEC TS 17021-7:2014 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 7: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of road traffic safety management systems
18.	MMS ISO/IEC TS 17021-9:2016 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 9: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of anti-bribery management systems
19.	MMS ISO/IEC TS 17021-10:2018 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems -- Part 10: Competence requirements for auditing and certification of occupational health and safety management systems
20.	MMS ISO/IEC TS 17023:2013 Conformity assessment -- Guidelines for determining the duration of management system certification audits
21.	MMS ISO/IEC 17024:2012 Conformity assessment -- General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons
22.	MMS ISO/IEC 17025:2017 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories
23.	MMS ISO/IEC TR 17026:2015 Conformity assessment -- Example of a certification scheme for tangible products
24.	MMS ISO/IEC TS 17027:2014 Conformity assessment -- Vocabulary related to competence of persons used for certification of persons
25.	MMS ISO/IEC TR 17028:2017 Conformity assessment -- Guidelines and examples of a certification scheme for services
26.	MMS ISO/IEC 17030:2003 Conformity assessment -- General requirements for third-party marks of conformity
27.	MMS ISO 17034:2016 General requirements for the competence of reference material producers
28.	MMS ISO/IEC 17040:2005 Conformity assessment -- General requirements for peer assessment of conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies
29.	MMS ISO/IEC 17043:2010 Conformity assessment -- General requirements for proficiency testing
30.	MMS ISO/IEC 17050-1:2004 Conformity assessment -- Supplier's declaration of conformity -- Part 1: General requirements
31.	MMS ISO/IEC 17050-2:2004 Conformity assessment -- Supplier's declaration of conformity -- Part 2: Supporting documentation
32.	MMS ISO/IEC 17065:2012 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services
33.	MMS ISO/IEC 17067:2013 Conformity assessment -- Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes
34.	MMS ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems -- Requirements with guidance for use
35.	MMS ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems -- Requirements with guidance for use
36.	MMS ISO/IEC 27001:2013 Information Technology -- Security techniques -- Information security Management Systems -- Requirements
37.	MMS ISO 22000:2018 Food Safety Management Systems -- Requirements for any organization in the food chain
38.	MMS ISO 26000:2010 Guidance on social responsibility
39.	MMS ISO 19011:2018 Guidelines for auditing management systems
40.	MMS ISO 9000:2015 Quality management systems -- Fundamentals and vocabulary
41.	MMS ISO 9004:2018 Quality management -- Quality of an organization -- Guidance to achieve sustained success
42.	MMS ISO 13485:2016 Medical devices -- Quality management systems -- Requirements for regulatory purposes
43.	MMS ISO/IEC 10646:2017 Information technology -- Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)

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China trade talks 'progress' boosts Wall Street

NEW YORK (United States) — Optimism on a US-China trade deal drove Wall Street higher on Friday, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq posting their highest closes since 9 October.

The major stock indices closed the week with gains, largely recouping the prior week's losses although the Dow Jones Industrial Average was held lower by Boeing.

The Dow added 0.5 per cent, rising 139 points to end at 25,849.01, a 1.6 per cent gain for the week. Meanwhile, the broader S&P 500 rose 0.5 per cent to finish at 2,822.47, and the Nasdaq added 0.8 per cent, closing at 7,688.53, both posting their strongest weekly gains since November.

US-China trade deal drives Wall Street higher on Friday. **PHOTO: AFP**

China's official Xinhua news agency reported "substantial progress" occurred in a phone call Beijing's trade enjoy Liu He held with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin."Comments coming from the Chinese side were positive. That helped despite the fact the US president suggested he could walk away from a deal this week," Quincy Krosby of Prudential Financial told AFP.

Investors also digested a mixed batch of economic data.

A survey of consumer sentiment overshot forecasts, suggesting consumers may be ready to resume spending after a spell of thriftiness.But the manufacturing sector's suffering continued: the Federal Reserve reported US manufacturing output fell sharply for the second month in a row.And the New York Federal Reserve Bank's survey of regional activity fell to its lowest level in about two years. —AFP ■

Driver killed as car bomb explodes prematurely in Kabul

KABUL—A car bomb exploded prematurely in Koti Sangi district of western Kabul, killing the driver and injuring two passers-by early on Saturday, local police said.

The car was carrying a magnetic bomb when it exploded prematurely, Basir Mujahid, the spokesman of Kabul police department, told Xinhua.

Investigators are already at the site investigating the blast, Mujahid added.

He also said that the vehicle is a private car, not a military vehicle.

More details will be published after the investigation, Mujahid said.

No individual or group has so far claimed responsibility for the explosion.

Afghan insurgents have stepped up magnetic bomb attacks in Kabul city and other large cities and provinces of the country in recent years.—Xinhua ■

Australia to launch Indian Ocean military exercises from Colombo

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka)— Australia will launch a seven-nation Indian Ocean military exercise next week, starting in Sri Lanka where China has invested in strategic ports and loaned huge amounts to build other infrastructure, Canberra's envoy said Friday.

Some 1,000 Australian security personnel in four naval ships and a military aircraft will participate in the biggest joint exercise yet with their Sri Lankan counterparts, Canberra's top envoy in Colombo, Jon Philp, said."Sri Lanka and Australia are increasingly like-minded on maritime security and Indian Ocean issues," Philp said adding that the two countries will improve cooperation and familiarity with each other's defence forces.Australian forces will move to neighbouring India on 26 March and thereafter travel to Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia and Singapore before returning to Darwin after two and a half months.

The joint exercise comes as concerns grow over Beijing's influence on Sri Lanka's economy and Chinese control over two key ports. **PHOTO: AFP**

The joint exercise comes as concerns grow over Beijing's influence on Sri Lanka's economy and Chinese control over two key ports.Unable to service a $1.4 billion Chinese loan to build a deep-sea port in the island's south, Colombo leased the facility to a Beijing company for $1.12 billion in 2017. A state-owned Chinese company also runs Sri Lanka's biggest container terminal in Colombo.

Neighbouring India as well as Western nations have expressed concern about China's foothold on vital locations in Sri Lanka which is strategically placed along the most important East-West sea route.An ambitious plan, seeking to link Asia, Europe and Africa with a network of ports, highways and railways, has seen China disperse tens of billions of dollars in loans to developing nations, sparking fears of a "debt trap". —AFP ■

7 arrested, including 2 women, in Indonesia after suicide blast

JAKARTA—A total of seven Islamic militants, including two women, have been arrested in Indonesia in connection with a suicide bombing two days ago by the wife of an Islamic militant that also killed her 2-year-old child, police said Friday.One of the two women, identified only by her initial R, was recruited to be a suicide bomber, according to National Police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo.

In the early hours of Wednesday, a woman identified as Halimah detonated at least two bombs during a standoff with police outside her home in the town of Sibolga in North Sumatra Province. The previous day, her husband, who goes by the alias Abu Hamzah, was arrested for alleged terrorism-related offences."Abu Hamzah was going to take R as his second wife," Dedi told a press conference, adding that R was formerly the wife of an Islamic militant who was shot dead during a police raid in October. R was arrested in the town of Tanjung Balai, about 240 kilometers northeast of Sibolga. Another woman, identified as Khadijah, was arrested in the town of Klaten in Central Java Province, according to Dedi.

"She instructed comrades in her terrorist network to upload video footage containing some threats against police and planned to launch terror attacks along with Abu Hamzah," the police spokesman said. In another development, police disclosed that Abu Hamzah and his late wife had three other children besides the one who died in the blasts.

"We are looking for the three other children," he said, adding efforts are continuing to determine whether any of the three also died in Wednesday's explosions.The police described all of the detainees as being affiliated with Jamah Ansyarut Daulah, a militant network linked to Islamic State.In July last year, the South Jakarta District Court disbanded JAD as part of efforts to contain terrorist cells in the world's most-populous Muslim nation. With the disbandment ruling, Indonesian authorities can arrest any members, sympathizers or supporters of JAD.—Kyodo News ■

Hundreds of thousands join world youth climate demo

Thousands of protesters flood the streets of Montreal during the march for climate, on 15 March 2019, Some 150,000 students throughout Quebec province are on strike for the day. **PHOTO: AFP**

MONTREAL (Canada)—Hundreds of thousands of young people skipped school across the globe on Friday to march through the streets for an international day of student protests aimed at pushing world leaders into action on climate change.

Classrooms in capitals from Bangkok to Berlin and Lagos to London emptied as organizers of the student strike called demonstrations in more than 100 countries.Students flooded into the streets across Europe, North and South America, and Asia carrying placards reading: "There is no planet B", "You're destroying our future" and "If you don't act like adults, we will."Despite three decades of warnings, carbon dioxide emissions hit record levels in 2017 and again last year.

Loading the atmosphere with greenhouse gases at current rates will eventually lead to an uninhabitable planet, scientists say.In Stockholm, Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg—who inspired the protests—warned that time was running out.

"We are living through an existential crisis that has been ignored for decades and if we do not act now it may be too late," the 16-year-old, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, told Swedish public television station SVT.

Across the world, their placards formed a mosaic:

"Like the ocean, we will rise" (Sydney)

"Our future in your hands" (Berlin)

"System Change not Climate Change" (Vienna)

"Don't be a Trump" (Hong Kong)

"The Titanic would have NO problem in 2019" (Elmshorn, Germany)

And everywhere, "There is no planet B."

Montreal drew among the largest crowds, estimated by organizers at nearly 150,000.

In the United States, protests were more low-key, with events held in New York, Washington, Chicago, Portland, Oregon, and St. Paul, Minnesota, where one sign read: "So bad even introverts are here!" Further south in Latin America, placards with messages such as "climate change is not 'fake news'" were seen in Buenos Aires, Argentina—while young people also took to the streets in the Chilean capital Santiago and Colombia's Medellin.

In Delhi, one of the world's most polluted cities, 200 students took part in a colorful protest, waving ribbons, juggling and performing stunts with hoops.

"We have to make a choice whether we want to sit and be indifferent or do something for our planet," said 16-year-old student Srijani Datta. In Sydney, 18-year-old Charles Rickwood warned that Australia's Great Barrier Reef could be destroyed. "If current trends in the environment continue, we'll see the one, two degrees increase in our ocean then it will simply become unsustainable and we could lose the entire Great Barrier Reef," he told AFP.

Skipping exams

European students were also out en masse. Several thousand youngsters thronged the streets of central London in a raucous demonstration with banners and placards. Packing into Parliament Square, they cheered and chanted "Change... now!" before marching past Downing Street and massing outside Buckingham Palace. "They're not going to stop me trying to save the planet," said 15-year-old Joe Crabtree from southwest London, who had missed two exams to join the rally.

More than one million marched overall, according to estimates by organizing groups such as the Youth For Climate movement and AFP reporters.The Friday for Future movement said more than 300,000 young people demonstrated in Germany alone.As youngsters hit the streets, nations meeting at the UN environment assembly in Kenya announced they had agreed to "significantly reduce" single-use plastics over the next decade.

But experts said the pledge—which only referred to man-made global warming and made no mention of the fossil fuels driving it—fell far short of the steps needed to tackle Earth's burgeoning pollution crisis. —AFP ■

Receding Chilean glacier a sign of accelerating climate change

Scientists say that warm summer temperatures and high rainfall weakened the Grey Glacier's walls. **PHOTO: AFP**

SANTIAGO (Chile)—In the space of just two weeks, two large icebergs broke off the Grey Glacier in Chilean Patagonia—a sign of accelerating climate change, experts say.The Grey Glacier is one of the main sights in the Torres del Paine national park popular with tourists and hikers.A giant iceberg the size of six football pitches—8.8 hectares (22 acres) —broke away from the glacier on February 20 and another six hectare piece detached on 7 March.It marks the first time two icebergs of such great size have broken off in such quick succession.The 270 square kilometer (104 square mile) glacier receded by 500 meters (550 yards), more than half the amount lost over the previous decade.A smaller iceberg detached in 2017 but Ricardo Jana, a scientist at the Chilean Antarctic Institute, said "the loss of mass over the previous years was definitely smaller than this year."

Scientists following the glacier's evolution say it lost around two kilometers in the last 30 years.A United Nations study in 2018 found that 95 per cent of Chile's 24,100 glaciers had receded.Scientists say that unusually warm summer temperatures—up to 31 degrees Celsius in Patagonia—and high rainfall weakened the glacier's walls."The receding of the glaciers coincides with the increased temperatures that we've noticed in the region," said Inti Gonzalez, a glaciologist at the Cequa Foundation that studies geology in Patagonia and the Antarctic.Higher rainfall also accelerates the glacier melt while raising the level of the eponymous lake where the glacier is found.—AFP ■

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Announcement of Changing Manufacturing Company Name, Address and Logo

We are pleased to announce that Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd. who is a manufacturer and supplier of herbicide, **Sirius 10 WP** (Registration No. 2015-2401-Provisional (Pesticide Registration Board)) has changed its name to Nissan Chemical Corporation (Registration No in Japan 0100-01-008734) and its address, logo as follows from 1st, July 2018.

	Old	New
	Before July 1, 2018	Since July 1, 2018
Company name	Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd.	Nissan Chemical Corporation
Address	Kowa Hitotsubashi Building, 7-1, Kanda-Nishiki-Cho 3-Chome, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 101-0054, Japan	5-1, Nihonbashi 2-Chome, Chuo-Ku, Tokyo, 103-6119, Japan
Logo		

Nissan Chemical Corporation
0943142882

In this file photo taken on 10 February 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

YouTube star to be first female US late-night talk host in decades

NEW YORK (United States)—Major television channel NBC has tapped YouTube star Lilly Singh to helm a late-night talk show, making the Canadian the first woman to host on a US broadcast network in more than three decades.

The evening talk shows have been a mainstay of American television for more than half-a-century—but their hosts are generally white men.

The late comedian Joan Rivers did host her own show from 1986 to 1988 on Fox, but that channel—unlike competitors ABC, CBS and NBC—is not known for its late-night talk programming and no longer uses the format.

Comedian Samantha Bee also hosts her own evening satire news show entitled "Full Frontal," but it airs on the cable channel TBS and has a much smaller audience than the four national broadcast networks.

Singh, 30, will take over the last of NBC's three slots that is currently hosted by Carson Daly and begins at 1:35 am EST.

A Canadian born to Indian parents, Singh gained fame for her YouTube channel "Superwoman," launched in 2010, which today boasts 14.5 million subscribers and nearly three billion total views.

She announced her new gig as host of "A Little Late with Lilly Singh" as a guest on NBC's "The Tonight Show, the network's most-watched late-night program that's hosted by Jimmy Fallon.

It will be "kind of like my YouTube channel," she said, adding that "I think it's a little awesome for an Indian Canadian woman to be on a late-night show."—AFP ■

China to promote online learning: ministry

BEIJING—China will launch a nationwide campaign to promote online learning, according to a circular released by the Ministry of Education.

A total of 10 million teachers and students will be encouraged to register with online learning platforms this year, the circular said.

The country will select 40 excellent online learning platforms and 200 schools and universities for nationwide promotion and demonstration.

The ministry said it would continue to work with China Telecom and China Mobile to train 2,000 headmasters and 4,000 teachers of primary and secondary schools to better use online learning platforms.—Xinhua ■

Beijing to stage 23 original dramas in exhibition

BEIJING—Twenty-three original dramas will be staged at an invitational exhibition starting 13 March in Beijing.

The Fifth China Original Drama Invitational Exhibition will last for three and a half months. During this time, 23 plays from eight provincial-level regions will be staged in 102 shows.

Among the 23 dramas, there are original works depicting the great changes and eulogizing the struggle and practice of the Party and the people over the past 70 years, such as "Craftsmen of the Nation" and "Piano Sound Lingering in the Town."

There are also plays that draw inspiration from traditional culture, historical stories and classic works, for example, "Mr. Ma and Son," an adaption of Lao She's novel of the same name.

The event is organized by the National Theater of China and the government of Beijing's Xicheng District.—Xinhua ■

IN Picture

Jewish holiday of Purim celebrated near Modi'in

Israelis take part in a parade celebrating the Jewish holiday of Purim near Modi'in, on 15 March 2019. Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. It commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

A woman walks past the work of artist Tracey Emin, "Drunk to the Bottom of My Soul, 2002" at Christie's New York during a press preview on 8 February 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

George Michael's artworks sold for £9.2 mn

LONDON (United Kingdom)—A collection of contemporary art owned by late pop idol George Michael, including works by Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin, has been sold for £9.2 million (10.8 million euros, $12.2 million), Christie's auction house said.

Michael was a keen collector of works by the Young British Art movement and developed friendships with many of the artists, visiting their galleries and studios.

Christie's billed the sale of more than 200 works as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" for fans of the tradition-defying movement from the 1980s and 1990s.

"The Incomplete Truth", a 2006 work by Hirst consisting of a dove preserved in formaldehyde, sold for £911,250—below its estimated price of £1.0-1.5 million.

Proceeds of the auction will go towards Michael's various philanthropic ventures, the auctioneers said.

The singer died of heart and liver problems on 25 December 2016 at the age of 53.

During his career, both with Wham! and later as a solo artist, Michael sold more than 100 million records and had a string of massive hits between 1983 and 1996.

Among his biggest hits were "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go", "Last Christmas" and "Faith".—AFP ■

New data in eternal debate over eggs, heart health

A new US study is an important addition to the old debate about eggs. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON (United States)—The debate over whether eggs are good for you is age-old: while a good source of protein, they also contain potentially harmful cholesterol. Now, a new study—published Friday by the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)—has weighed in.

After analyzing 30,000 Americans from six separate studies, researchers concluded that eating an extra half-egg a day increased the risk of cardiovascular disease (six per cent) and premature death (eight per cent) over the study period. That is relatively little, especially given that a half-egg daily is double what the average American eats.

Separately, the study found an additional 300 milligrams of dietary cholesterol per day increases the risk of heart disease by 17 per cent and premature death by 18 per cent.

But 300 mg is twice the average daily amount eaten by Americans. A large egg contains about 186 mg of cholesterol.The new data suggest that eating eggs increases the risk of heart attack or stroke, although the study does not establish a causal link.

Still, it offers enough data to "make a strong statement that eggs and overall dietary cholesterol intake remain important in affecting the risk of (cardiovascular disease) and more so the risk of all-cause mortality," physician Robert Eckel, of the University of Colorado, wrote in an editorial in JAMA. But as Tom Sanders, a professor of dietetics at King's College London, points out, these results differ from a large US study published in 1999 that found no effect—like a 2013 analysis of three million adults published in the British medical journal BMJ.

A recent Chinese study even concluded cholesterol decreased the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Sanders thinks the new results are only relevant for the United States, where the average person eats more eggs and meat than in Europe. "Eggs in moderation—around 3 to 4 per week—is fine, and that is what current UK dietary guidelines say," Sanders said. In France, national nutrition guidelines refute the idea that you should not eat more than two eggs a week: "You can eat them regularly." — AFP ■

Moment of truth: tech firms in tennis line-call battle

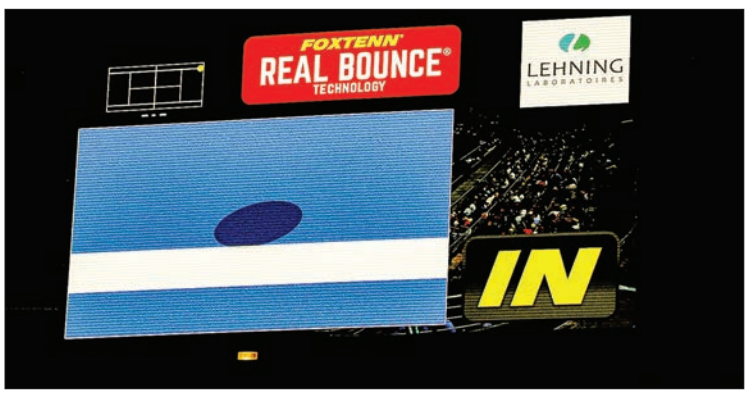
PARIS (France)—A behind-the-scenes battle at the world's top tennis tournaments pits an upstart newcomer and an established star.Hawk-Eye, the British firm that innovated ball-tracking technology, has been ruling the sector for more than a decade.

Its famous video simulations of contested line calls at Grand Slam tournaments are known to tennis lovers around the world. They are produced by computer-linked tracking cameras that calculate a flight path and project the ball's landing point.

But start-up FoxTenn from Spain believes it can do better by eliminating doubt from the line-call business.Hawk-Eye, which operates a dozen or so cameras placed around the tennis court, officially acknowledges a three-millimetre or so margin of error in its simulations of where the tennis ball would bounce.For Foxtenn that tiny margin is too wide and it says it can offer real-time technology that eliminates any room for debate."What we are offering is the technology of truth and transparency, with the actual impact of the ball on the court," FoxTenn president Javier Simon told AFP. In fact, FoxTenn's 40 or so cameras around the court, backed up by scanners and lasers, effectively capture the moment of impact of the ball, without need for any simulation.

Lobbying hard

Simon says the technology has been given a zero-error rating in a study approved by the main tennis federations, the ATP, ITF and the WTA.Simon says that so far around 30 men's and women's tennis tournaments have adopted the FoxTenn system, or about 20 per cent of the professional circuit. —AFP ■



Foxtenn in action at the recent ATP Moselle Open in Metz, eastern France. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chinese researchers develop new device for drugs detection

BEIJING—Chinese researchers have developed a mass spectrometer that can rapidly detect illegal drugs on-site.Drugs identification is essential for drugs control, and law enforcement departments have an urgent need for the technology and equipment that can rapidly identify illegal drugs, including new ones.

Developed by researchers from the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Yunnan Police Officer Academy, and Drugs Analysis and Drugs Control Technology Key Laboratory of the Ministry of Public Security, the device realizes rapid on-site detection of illegal drugs in a complex matrix. The research was published in the journal Anal. Chem.The device can analyze 27 types of drugs. It can analyze the drugs in less than two seconds and the detection limits for all drugs are at the nanogram level.

The device also adopted a temperature-regulated sampling strategy that can distinguish illegal drugs components in plant-based drugs samples and drinks containing illegal drugs. —Xinhua ■

Chinese study tests stability of new solar cells in near space

BEIJING—Chinese researchers have found that perovskite solar cells can retain most of their power conversion efficiency in near space, providing perspectives on the new solar cells' future application in space.

In recent years, perovskite solar cells (PSCs) are of huge interest to the academic community and the photovoltaics industry due to their potential of achieving higher efficiency and low production costs compared to traditional silicon solar cells.

According to researchers from China's Peking University, Academy of Opto-electronics, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Northwestern Polytechnical University, PSCs have great potential for developing the new-generation energy technology for space application, but little research has been done to test the stability of PSCs in the extreme space environment.

The Chinese researchers sent the devices fixed with PSCs into near space on a high-altitude balloon in China's Inner Mongolia region. The balloon rose to near space at an altitude of 35 km, a region above Earth's atmosphere where there is only a trace amount of moisture and ozone.

The region, considered to have "air mass zero," contains no atmospheric attenuation of solar radiation and therefore several high-energy particles and radiation, such as neutrons, electrons and gamma rays originating from the galactic cosmic rays and solar flares.

According to the findings, one type of perovskite solar cells used in the study retained more than 95 per cent of its initial power conversion efficiency during the test, the researchers reported on Science China Physics, Mechanics & Astronomy.

They said the study is expected to play a crucial role in the future stability research of perovskite solar cells, hoping they can push forward the application of PSCs in space.

A perovskite is a type of mineral that was first found in the Ural Mountains and named after Lev Perovski, founder of the Russian Geographical Society. It is composed of calcium, titanium and oxygen.—Xinhua ■

Coach Myo Min Tun to manage Myanmar team in FIFA friendlies

FORMER Myanmar football star and current Yangon United head coach Myo Min Tun has been nominated to be the Myanmar national team's caretaker coach for the upcoming FIFA international friendly matches, including the match against Chinese Taipei.

After the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) parted ways with German coach Antoine Hey at the end of the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018, the team sought to fill its head coach position.

To fill the position, the Myanmar Football Federation turned to coach Myo Min Tun.

Upon accepting the position, Myanmar national team coach Myo Min Tun said, "I have ambitions to be the national coach in the future, but I did not expect to be offered the position so soon, even in a temporary capacity.

I already have the desire to work at the international level. So, this role is a good opportunity for me."

Myo Min Tun has been successful since 2018, when his local Yangon United team won three cups in one year, including the Charity Cup, the Myanmar National League and also the General Aung San Shield.

Myanmar is scheduled to take on Chinese Taipei on 19 March, and Indonesia on 25 March.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Former Myanmar football star and current Yangon United head coach Myo Min Tun. **PHOTO : MFF**

Young Lions take victory with win over Chin Land FC

The Yangon United U-21 players seen taking their victory after winning over Chin Land 4-1. **PHOTO : MNL**

THE Yangon United U-21 team, also known as the Young Lions, were victorious over newcomer Chin Land U-21 FC with a score of 4-1 at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Goals for Yangon were netted by Thein Zaw Oo, Khine Hein Tun and Kar Lap, while Chin Land scored a single goal by Lang Muan Sang.

The Young Lions led from the very first minutes of the match, scoring their opener at the 8th minute past defender Mg Mg Che from Chin Land.

The Chin Land players tried to score an equaliser with the use of a force attack, but it worked for Yangon United as they made a second goal, scored by Thein Zaw Oo at the 26 minute mark.

After two goals by the Young Lions, Chin Land players changed to playing a more defensive style.

The third goal went to Yangon's Khaing Hein Tun at 37 minutes, when his teammate Thein Kyaw Htay sent a close pass to him.

Yangon United fourth goal was scored by Kar Lap, with an assist by Phyo Chit.

Chin Land players never gave up, though, and at the 81st minute a single or consolation goal was scored by Chin Land player Lang Muan Sang.

At the final whistle, the Yangon youth team had won 4-1 over Chin Land.

Yangon United (U-21) has earned 13 points from 6 plays, 4 wins, 1 draw, 1 loss and, on March 23rd, they will play against Dagon (U-21) at Dagon stadium.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

CAF Confederation Cup holders Raja Casablanca facing elimination

JOHANNESBURG (South Africa)—CAF Confederation Cup trophy-holders Raja Casablanca are facing elimination unless they win a tricky match in Congo Brazzaville and get help from fellow Moroccans Renaissance Berkane. Raja have drawn four games and lost one in Group A, leaving them bottom of the table ahead of a final matchday clash with second-place AS Otoho Oyo in Owando Sunday.

But even if the Casablanca outfit triumph, they will not reach the quarter-finals unless already-qualified Berkane avoid defeat away to another Moroccan side, Hassania Agadir.Raja are coached by Patrice Carteron, a Frenchman with wide experience of Africa who has battled to revive the team since succeeding sacked Spaniard Juan Carlos Garrido this year.AFP Sport previews the final matchday in the second-tier African club competition with 13 clubs chasing six places in the 20 March quarter-finals draw.

Group A

Otoho are in pole position to accompany Berkane into the knockout phase despite winning only one of five matches in this section and scoring just three goals in 450 minutes.The Congolese have five points, the same number as Hassania, but lead the Moroccans on the head-to-head rule having won 1-0 at home and lost 2-1 away in the matches between them.After holding Raja to a goalless draw in north Africa, Otoho have cause for optimism, but an attack featuring Nigerien Mahamane Cisse needs to become sharper.

Group B

A Tunisian one-two seems on the cards with record three-time Confederation Cup winners CS Sfaxien already through and twice trophy-holders Etoile Sahel poised to join them. If Etoile secure maximum points at home to Salitas FC, they will eliminate the Burkina Faso academy club and Enugu Rangers of Nigeria, who host Sfaxien. After a winning start, Godwin Aguda-inspired Enugu have taken just two points from a possible 12 and their only chance of survival is to beat Sfaxien and hope Salitas defeat Etoile.

Group C

Zesco United of Zambia, the only club among the 16 in the group phase who are out of contention, could have a big say in which clubs progress from this group. If a side boasting star strikers Lazarous Kambole and Kenyan Jesse Were avoid defeat at home to Asante Kotoko of Ghana, fellow Zambians Nkana and Al Hilal of Sudan qualify. —AFP ■

Higuain under pressure to deliver as Giroud eyes starting berth

LIVERPOOL (United Kingdom)—Olivier Giroud's hat-trick at Dynamo Kiev moved Chelsea one step closer towards Europa League success and posed a test of Maurizio Sarri's conviction that Gonzalo Higuain is the best man to lead his attack. Giroud voiced his frustration after the comprehensive 5-0 victory over Dynamo at his lack of involvement in the Premier League where he remains Higuain's understudy.

The France World Cup winner's midweek contribution means Sarri now faces a decision over whether to reward Giroud for his treble and include the striker in his line-up for Sunday's visit to Everton, or recall Higuain, who missed the trip to Ukraine because of illness.

In Europe, Giroud has been a central figure in Chelsea's passage to a quarter-final meeting with Slavia Prague, having scored nine goals in nine appearances. His role in the Premier League, though, has been much more peripheral with the former Arsenal striker having failed to start in 2019.

Sarri has placed his faith in Higuain since he arrived on loan from Juventus in late January, triggering the departure of Alvaro Morata to Atletico Madrid.

Two goals on his third start for the club in the 5-0 defeat of Huddersfield suggested Higuain would not take long to find his feet in his new surroundings. —AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

Coming to grips with Uniqueness of a *Language*

By Aung Kaung Sett Hein
3rd Year Medicine

GROWING up, I remember I have always been fond of and familiar to American English accent and intonations compared to those of British or Australians. Part of this is due to my strong love for watching American soap operas and movies, and their plots created and characters involved. Besides specific usages, vocabularies, and spellings, I love an American fashion of pronouncing 'r' sound in words with strength, and also pressing or loosing stress as required on different parts of words, and I personally, and weirdly, find this style more satisfying in pronouncing words. But never have I ever predicted myself years ago to be exposed to an oddly mesmerizing and uniquely beautiful accent of English in a different country in the West, in the Republic of Ireland, while studying abroad.

Like America or Britain, English is the main language of Ireland. When I first arrived in Ireland, one of the things I found out was English accents can be way more diverse and variable than just British, New Zealand, or Australian. But soon reality hits, I found myself struggling to get a grip on the accents and the slangs, because they are hard to interpret with my foreign ears. It has been a total new learning experience for me for the past 3 years and indeed, I still am learning every day from friends, lecturers, or random strangers. Unlike a usual American accent, here I catch the 'U' sound being pronounced like an 'O', as in 'BOS' rather than 'Bus', or 'POB' rather than 'Pub'. Interesting and weird, isn't it? Also, I was mystified by how my college name RCSI was pronounced as 'OR-C-S-I' with a strong 'OR' sound for the letter 'R'. Not only that, the Irish accent does not sound the same in different counties in the country. So with every day, learning new things about the language you already know in a new perspective is satisfying and interesting.

Like any other country, there are also slangs scattered around in Ireland. Particularly I have learned the very common use of the word 'grand' in everyday conversations, as in replying with 'I'm grand' to 'How are you doing' question, or saying 'you'll be grand' meaning 'you'll be fine'. During my first few days in the country, it feels like everyone cares about my well-being, from staff at the supermarket to the cashiers, asking "are you okay/alright" wondering if I need their assistance. Interestingly, the Irish style of telling the time also confused me arithmetically when they say 'half 1' instead of '1:30' and '5 to 10' instead of '9:55', as I was not ready for the need to work out the time mentioned in a quite perplexing manner.

SEE PAGE- S-3

Design: BT

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

Lesson 19

Essay-writing

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာစီစာကုံးများကို ရှင်းရှင်းတွေး၍ စာကြောင်းတို များဖြင့် လွယ်လွယ်ရေးသားပုံကို တင်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။

ယခုဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။

ကျောင်းသားများအတွက် စာစီစာကုံးကောင်းတစ်ပုဒ်ရေးနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါအချက်များကို အထူးဂရုပြုသင့်ပါသည်။

(1) စုစည်းညီညွတ်မှု (Unity)

စာစီစာကုံးတစ်ပုဒ်သည် စ လယ် ဆုံး သုံးပါးညီညွတ်ရမည်။ နာမူနာစာစီစာကုံး များကို လေ့လာပါ။ ညီညွတ်မှုရှိမရှိ သတိထားကြည့်ပါ။ ကိုယ်တိုင် ရေးရာတွင် လည်း ညီညွတ်မှုရှိအောင် ကြိုးစားပါ။ မဆက်စပ်သော အကြောင်းအရာမပါ အောင် ဂရုစိုက်ပါ။ စ လယ် ဆုံး ဆက်စပ်မှုရှိရမည်။

(2) အစီအစဉ် (Order)

အစီအစဉ် ကျနမှုရှိရမည်။ အတွေးအခေါ်လမ်းကြောင်း တစ်ခုအတိုင်း လိုက်ရေးပါ။

ဥပမာ

My best friend ဟူသော စာစီစာကုံးကို ရေးမည်ဆိုလျှင်၊ နာမည်၊ အသက်၊ မိဘအမည်၊ အလုပ်အကိုင်စသည်တို့ကို အစီအစဉ်အတိုင်း ရေးရမည်။

My best friend is Min Lwin Oo. He is 17. He is son of U Ko Ko Gyi and Daw Ma Ma Lay. He is a student of the Yangon University. He is in his first year. He is a Botany student.

စသည်ဖြင့် နိဒါန်းတွင် ရေးပြီး စာကိုယ်တွင် ရုပ်ရည်အသွင်အပြင် အမူအရာကို ရေးရမည်။ "အရပ်ရှည်သည်" ဟုရေးပြီး မြန်မာစာတော်သည်။ ဘောလုံးကစားသည် စသည်ဖြင့် အောက်ပါအတိုင်းရေးလျှင် အစီအစဉ်မကျတော့။

He is tall. He is good at Myanmar Language. He plays football.

အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့ ရေးသင့်သည်။

He is tall, dark and handsome. He has a fine build. He is tall and strong. He is a sportsman. He plays football and volleyball. He loves swimming.

သူသည် အရပ်ရှည်၍ အသားညိုကာရုပ်ချောသည်။ သူ့မှာ ကြည့်ကောင်းသော ကိုယ်လုံးကိုယ်ထည်ရှိသည်။ သူအရပ်ရှည်၍ သန်မာသည်။ သူသည် အားကစားသမားတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။ သူသည် ဘောလုံးနှင့် ဘော်လီဘောကစားသည်။ သူရေကူးခြင်းကိုလည်း နှစ်သက်သည်။

ဤသို့ ရေးပြီးမှ သူဝါသနာ၊ အကျင့်စရိုက်၊ စိတ်နေသဘောထား၊ ဆက်ဆံမှုစသည်တို့ကို အစီအစဉ်ကျကျရေးနိုင်အောင် ကြိုးစားရမည်။

(3) ကျစ်လျစ်မှု (Brevity)

ကျောင်းသားတစ်ယောက်ရေးသည့် စာစီစာကုံးသည် သိပ်မရှည်သင့်ပါ။

အခြေခံပညာရေးအဆင့်မြင့်တန်းကျောင်းသားတစ်ယောက်ရေးသည့်စာစီစာကုံးသည် ဗလာစာရွက်တစ်မျက်နှာခွဲဆိုလျှင် လုံလောက်ပြီ။ တစ်မျက်နှာကျော်ကျော်လောက် ရေးနိုင်ရန် လိုအပ်သည်။

Your essay should be like a lady's skirt—long enough to cover the subject and short enough to make it interesting.

သင့်စာစီစာကုံးသည် အမျိုးသမီးတစ်ယောက်၏ ဂါဝန်နှင့် တူသင့်သည်။ ဘာသာရပ်ကို ငုံမိလောက်အောင် ရှည်သင့်၍ စိတ်ဝင်စားဖွယ်ကောင်းလောက်အောင်လည်း တိုသင့်သည်။

(4) ဟန် (Style)

လူတိုင်းတွင် ကိုယ်ပိုင်ဟန်ရှိသည်။ ရေးစတွင် ပေါ်လွင်ဦးမည်မဟုတ်။ ရေးသားကျလာသောအခါမှ တဖြည်းဖြည်းကိုယ်ပိုင်ဟန်ပေါ်လာမည်။ ရေးစတွင် ဟန်နှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ သိပ်ဂရုပြုရန် မလိုသေးပါ။

(5) ကိုယ်ပိုင်အတွေးအခေါ် (Personal Touch)

စာစီစာကုံးတစ်ပုဒ်တွင် ကိုယ်ပိုင်အတွေးအခေါ်အယူအဆကို ဖော်ပြနိုင်ရမည်။ ကိုယ့်ထင်မြင်ချက်ကို ထုတ်ဖော်နိုင်ရန် ကြိုးစားရမည်။ ထိုသို့ ဖော်ရာတွင်လည်း ရိုးသားရမည်။

သို့ရာတွင် ရှင်းရှင်းနှင့် လွယ်လွယ်ရေးသားရန် ကြိုးစားပါ။

စာစီစာကုံး အမျိုးအစားများ
Types of essays

စာစီစာကုံးငါးမျိုးရှိသည်။

(A) Descriptive essays

(သရုပ်ဖော် စာစီစာကုံး။)

လူ၊ တိရစ္ဆာန်၊ အရာဝတ္ထု စသည်တို့ကို သရုပ်သဏ္ဌာန်ပေါ်လွင် အောင် ရေးသားသော စာစီစာကုံးမျိုးဖြစ်သည်။

"The dog" , "My school", "My native town", "The Myanmar farmer" စသည်တို့မှာ descriptive essays များဖြစ်သည်။ ကျောင်းသားများ အများဆုံးရေးရသော စာစီစာကုံးမျိုးဖြစ်သည်။ များသောအားဖြင့် Simple Present Tense (ရိုးရိုးပစ္စုပ္ပန်ကာလ) သုံး၍ ရေးရသည်။ ထို့ကြောင့် She goes to school. He plays football. စသည့် ကြိယာတွင် 's' ကျန်မနေရစ်အောင် အထူးဂရုစိုက်ရမည်။

She does not listen to the radio.
We do not like swimming.

စသည့် do, does နှင့် အငြင်းဝါကျများ မှန်အောင်ရေးသားရန် သတိပြုသင့်သည်။

မြင်သည်။ ကြားသည်တို့ကို စာကြောင်းတိုများဖြင့် လွယ်လွယ်ရေးသားသင့်သည်။

(B) Narrative essays (အတိတ်မှ အဖြစ်အပျက်တစ်ရပ်ကို ပြောပြသော စာစီစာကုံး)

အတိတ် တစ်ချိန်ချိန်တွင် ဖြစ်ပျက်ခဲ့သည့် အကြောင်းအရာတစ်ရပ်ကို ရေးပြလျှင် ဤစာစီစာကုံး အမျိုးအစားတွင် အကျုံးဝင်သည်။ How I spent my summer vacation (နွေရာသီ အားလပ်ရက်ကို မည်သို့ကုန်ဆုံးခဲ့သနည်း) A visit to a village. (ရွာတစ်ရွာသို့ သွားရောက်လည်ပတ်ခြင်း) A journey by train (မီးရထားဖြင့် ခရီးသွားခြင်း) စသည်တို့မှာ ဤအမျိုးအစား စာစီစာကုံးများဖြစ်သည်။ Simple Past Tense (ရိုးရိုးအတိတ်ကာလ) သုံး၍ ရေးရသည်။ Past Continuous Tense နှင့် Past Perfect Tense တို့ကို အလျဉ်းသင့်သလို သုံးစွဲတတ်ရန်လိုသည်။

အခြေခံပညာအဆင့်မြင့် ကျောင်းသားများ ဒုတိယအများဆုံးရေးရသော စာစီစာကုံးမျိုးဖြစ်သည်။

(C) Expository essays (ကျိုးကြောင်း ရှင်းလင်းတင်ပြသော စာစီစာကုံး)

ပေးထားသော ခေါင်းစဉ်နှင့်ပတ်သက်သည့် အချက်အလက်များ၊ အကျိုးတရား၊ အကြောင်းတရားများကို ရှင်းလင်းတင်ပြရသော စာစီစာကုံးမျိုးဖြစ်သည်။ အချက်အလက်ပေါ်များစွာ အခြေခံသည်။ အချက်အလက်များကို အတော်အတန်သိမှသာ ရေးနိုင်မည့် စာစီစာကုံးမျိုးဖြစ်သည်။ အခြေခံပညာအဆင့်မြင့် ကျောင်းသားများအတွက် အတန်းငယ်ခက်သည်။ ဥပမာ "The new-spaper" (သတင်းစာ)၊ The literacy work in Myanmar (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ စာတတ်မြောက်မှုလုပ်ငန်း)၊ "Health" (ကျန်းမာရေး)၊ A museum (ပြတိုက်တစ်ခု)စသည့် စာစီစာကုံးများမှ ဤအမျိုးအစားတွင် ပါဝင်သည်။ စာများများဖတ်ထားမှသာ ကောင်းစွာရေးနိုင်မည်ဖြစ်သည်။

(D) Reflective essays (အတွေးအခေါ်တင်ပြသောစာစီစာကုံး)

အခက်ဆုံးသော စာစီစာကုံးမျိုးဖြစ်သည်။ စိတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာအကြောင်းအရာများကို ရေးသားရသဖြင့် ကိုယ်ပိုင်တွေးခေါ်မှုများစွာလိုအပ်သည်။ ကိုယ်ပိုင်အတွေးအခေါ်ကိုလည်း တင်ပြနိုင်ရမည်။ လေ့လာမှုများ၍ အတွေ့အကြုံရှိမှသာ ရေးနိုင်သည့်စာစီစာကုံးမျိုးဖြစ်သည်။

ဥပမာ Truth (သစ္စာတရား)၊ Heroism (သူရဲကောင်းဝါဒ)၊ Poverty (ဆင်းရဲခြင်း) Peace (ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေး) စသည်တို့မှာ ဤအမျိုးအစားစာစီစာကုံးများဖြစ်သည်။

(E) Imaginative essays

(စိတ်ကူးယဉ်စာစီစာကုံး)

The autobiography of an old blackboard.

(သင်ပုန်းဟောင်းတစ်ချပ်၏ ကိုယ်တိုင်ရေးအတ္ထုပ္ပတ္တိ) စသည့် စာစီစာကုံးများမှာ ဤအမျိုးအစားတွင် ပါဝင်သည်။

မိမိကိုယ်မိမိ သင်ပုန်းဟောင်း၊ နွားမတစ်ကောင်၏ နေရာတွင် ထား၍ မိမိဘဝအဖြစ်အပျက်အတွေ့အကြုံ၊ ခံစားချက်တို့ကို ရေးသားရန်ဖြစ်သည်။ ထို့အပြင်

If I were a world-famous heart specialist.

(ကျွန်တော်သာ ကမ္ဘာကျော် နှလုံးရောဂါအထူးကုဆရာဝန်ကြီးတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်မျှားဖြစ်လျှင်)

If I could do anything in the world.

(ကျွန်တော် ကမ္ဘာပေါ်မှာ ဘာမဆိုလုပ်များလုပ်နိုင်လျှင်) စသည်တို့မှာလည်း ဤစာစီစာကုံးအမျိုးအစားတွင် ပါဝင်သည်။

စာစီစာကုံးများ ကောင်းစွာ ရေးတတ်လာသောအခါ အထက်ပါငါးမျိုးစလုံးကို အဆင်ပြေသလို ရောနှော ရေးသားနိုင်သည်။ အတိတ်အဖြစ်အပျက်တစ်ရပ်ကို ပြန်ပြောသောစာစီစာကုံး (narrative essays) မျိုးတွင် သရုပ်ဖော်စာစီစာကုံး၊ အတွေးအခေါ်တင်ပြသည့် စာစီစာကုံး (reflective essays)၊ စိတ်ကူးယဉ်စာစီစာကုံး (imaginative essays) သဘောမျိုးထည့်သွင်းရေးသားနိုင်ပါသည်။ လေ့လာမှုနှင့် အလေ့အကျင့်များလာသောအခါ ကောင်းစွာရေးတတ်လာပါလိမ့်မည်။

အခြားအရေးကြီးသောအချက်များ

ထို့အပြင် စာစီစာကုံးတစ်ပုဒ်တွင် အကြမ်းဖျင်းအားဖြင့် အပိုဒ်သုံးပိုဒ်ရှိသည်။ Introduction (နိဒါန်း)၊ Body of the essay (စာကိုယ်) နှင့် Conclusion (နိဂုံးချုပ်) တို့ဖြစ်သည်။

နိဒါန်းတွင် တိုတိုတုတ်တုတ်ဖြင့် ရေးရမည်အကြောင်းအရာနှင့် ပတ်သက်သည့် အဓိပ္ပာယ်ဖွင့်ဆိုချက်၊ သို့မဟုတ် ရှင်းလင်းချက်ကို ရေးနိုင်သည်။ ဥပမာ Work ဟူသော ခေါင်းစဉ်ဖြင့် ရေးရမည်ဆိုလျှင် နိဒါန်းတွင် အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့ ရေးနိုင်သည်။

Work is an honour. It is a duty. It is a necessity. It is a source of happiness.

အလုပ်ဟူသည် ဂုဏ်တစ်ရပ်ဖြစ်သည်။ တာဝန်တစ်ရပ်ဖြစ်သည်။ လိုအပ်ချက်တစ်ရပ်လည်းဖြစ်သည်။ ပျော်ရွှင်မှု၏ အရင်းအမြစ်တစ်ရပ်လည်းဖြစ်သည်။

စာစီစာကုံးတိုတိုတစ်ပုဒ်တွင် ဤမျှဆိုလျှင် လုံလောက်ပြီ။ စာကိုယ်တွင် ဤသို့ ဆက်ရေးနိုင်သည်။

There are two kinds of labour. They are mental and physical (manual) labour. Both are important. They go together. In fact labour creates the world. It was man's labour that had built the Pyrimids of Egypt, the Great wall of China, the skyscrapers of New York, the Shwedagon of Myanmar. It is man's labour that has built mills and factories, universities and colleges, dams and bridges, libraries and museums, monasteries and churches.

အလုပ်နှစ်မျိုးနှစ်စားရှိသည်။ ဉာဏ်နှင့် ကာယအလုပ်တို့ဖြစ်သည်။ နှစ်မျိုးစလုံးအရေးကြီးသည်။ ယှဉ်တွဲနေသည်။ တကယ်ဆိုလျှင် လုပ်အားသည် ကမ္ဘာကြီးကို ဖန်တီးသည်။ အီဂျစ်ပြည်မှ ပိရမစ်ကြီးများ၊ တရုတ်ပြည်မှ တံတိုင်းကြီး၊ နယူးရော့(ခ)မှ မိုးထိတိုက်ကြီးများ၊ မြန်မာပြည်မှ ရွှေတိဂုံဘုရား စသည်တို့ကို တည်ဆောက်ခဲ့သည်မှာ လူလုပ်အားဖြစ်သည်။ စက်ရုံအလုပ်ရုံများ၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ကောလိပ်များ၊ ရေကာတာနှင့် တံတားများ၊ စာကြည့်တိုက်ပြတိုက်ကြီးများ၊ ကျောင်းကန်ဘုရားများကို တည်ဆောက်ခဲ့သည်မှာလည်း လူလုပ်အားသာဖြစ်သည်။

ဤအတွေး လမ်းကြောင်းအတိုင်း လိုက်၍ ဆက်လက်ရေးသားနိုင်ပါသည်။ နမူနာပေးခြင်းမျှသာဖြစ်ပါသည်။

နိဂုံး

နိဂုံးတွင် နိဒါန်းနှင့် စာကိုယ်တွင် ရေးသားခဲ့သောအကြောင်းအရာများကို ခြုံငုံ၍ လိုရင်းကို ထိထိမိမိ တင်ပြနိုင်ရန် ကြိုးစားသင့်သည်။ မိမိထင်မြင်ချက်ကို လည်း တင်ပြသင့်သည်။ အရှည်မှာ နိဒါန်းလောက်ပင် ရှိသင့်သည်။ နိဒါန်းကဲ့သို့ပင် တိုတိုနှင့် ရှင်းရှင်းလင်းလင်း ရေးသင့်သည်။

Essay-writing နှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ အထက်ပါအချက်များကို နှလုံးသွင်းကာ ကောင်းသည်ထက် ကောင်းလာအောင် ကြိုးစားရေးသားသင့်သည်။ အရေးအကြီးဆုံးအချက်မှာ ကိုယ်တိုင်အရေးကျင့်ရန် ဖြစ်သည်။ ထို့ကဲ့သို့ ရေးနိုင်ရန် စာများများဖတ်ရန် လိုပါသည်။ အခြားသူများရေးထားသော စာစီစာကုံးများကိုလည်း လေ့လာသင့်သည်။ အင်္ဂလိပ်လိုရေးရာတွင် အထက်ပါအချက်များကို အပြည့်အဝလိုက်နာရန် ခဲယဉ်းနေဦးမည်ဖြစ်သော်လည်း မြန်မာလိုရေးရာတွင်လည်း အသုံးချနိုင်ပါသည်။

အောက်တွင် လွယ်လွယ်နှင့် ရေးထားသော စာစီစာကုံးများကို နမူနာအဖြစ်ပေးထားပါသည်။

■

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

Are entrance exams a must to select students for every course?

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

NOWADAYS, entrance exams have to be widely taken as a must all over the world in order to join the courses. It is widely accepted that entrance exams are the gateways to the courses students want to join. The world itself is a mixture of good and evil and entrance exam is not an exception.

Firstly, one point in favor of entrance exams is that they help examiners to reduce the element of bias and ambiguity in selecting the students. Examiners have to check the answers written by the students without knowing their identity numbers. Therefore, examiners have no chance of showing favoritism to any students. Besides, objective test items also reduce the element of bias and ambiguity.

The next argument for entrance exams is that they help students study regularly. The sense of having to take entrance exams always reminds students not to waste their time for no reason. Students need to spend more hours preparing for entrance exams. Otherwise, they will not be selected for the courses they want to join.

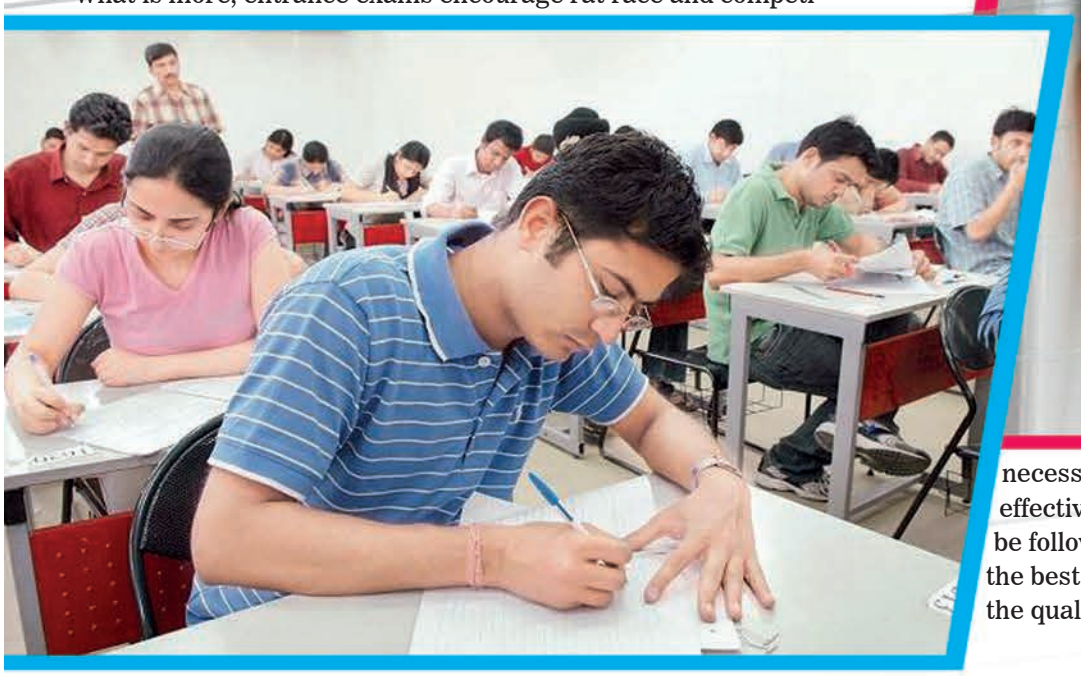
Another argument for entrance exams is that uniform standards are maintained in entrance exams. Examiners set a uniform syllabus and enable students to prepare accordingly to achieve certain set standards. Thus, entrance exams reduce confusion about the type of syllabus, the topics covered and so on.

The first argument counter to entrance exams is that they encourage exam-oriented study culture. Entrance exams develop exam-oriented study culture. Instead of students learning to make meaningful contribution or learning with critical-thinking, they are pressurized to study in order to pass entrance exam.

What is more, entrance exams encourage rat race and competition instead of collaboration. While deciding the cut-off scores to choose the selected students, a comparative system is used. The more points the students get, the more chances they have to pass the entrance exams. As a result, students develop the idea of competition with each other instead of collaboration.

Last but not the least, another counter-argument against entrance exams is that they make creativity and innovation take a back seat among students. Students have to spend most of their time preparing for entrance exams. As a result, they become weak in others which encourage creativity and innovation. On the other hand, they do not have enough time left to do what they like such as their hobbies.

To sum up, it is undeniable that entrance exams will be used longer as necessity for any courses because no method is so easy, objective and effective as this one. However, they also have drawbacks, so they need to be followed by the one which reduces their drawbacks. I think that one of the best ways is using viva test. I think that viva tests will be able to polish the qualities of entrance exams.



FROM PAGE- S-1

Now, the names of the local people here are not always as simple to pronounce as John, David, Mary or Linda as we find in American or British movies, and even though the names sound beautiful, it is somehwat odd due to the fact that they are not pronounced as they are spelt. Aoife (ee-fa), Siobhan (shi-VAWN), and Eoin (O-wen); and the list goes on. If you are a fan of an American-Irish actress Saoirse Ronan though, you probably already know how unique an irish name can sound. I often say the Irish names sound as unpredictable as the country's unsettled weather.

Whenever I come back home to Myanmar for summer holidays, I often have fun explaining the slangs that I learned to my family or throwing out a challenge of pronouncing Irish names with my friends. I think we all need to accept and embrace the differences and uniqueness in things we find around ourselves in real life. As much as I love my native language and culture and am proud to call myself a Burmese, I also am delighted to be able to explore a language in a distant land while studying, and to be more cognizant of the differences between non-Irish English and Irish English contexts. This experience has definitely opened up my vision to the definition of beauty in languages and accents and the complex diversity around each in different parts of the globe, and now after years, I have a newfound appreciation of randomly trying out an Irish English accent among my confused friends.

17 MARCH 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Mine risk education in schools to teach children how to avoid the danger of stepping on landmines is a critical part of DCA's work in Myanmar. Credit: DCA/Bax Lindhardt

Daw Aye Win (left) with her mother and sisters in Namsan Township of Shan State. They were injured by a landmine explosion in May 2018. Credit: DCA

Daw Aye May (left) talks about her experience in participating the emergency mine risk education session provided by DCA with support of the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund. Credit: DCA

Mine risk education in Myanmar: When knowledge is power

THE suffering caused by anti-personnel mines is horrific. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, a victim who survives an anti-personnel mine blast typically requires amputation, multiple operations and prolonged physical rehabilitation, and often suffers permanent disability, with serious social, psychological and economic implications. Fortunately, 164 States have joined the Mine Ban Convention, which establishes a comprehensive ban on these weapons. The number of new mine victims has significantly decreased since the Convention entered into force nearly 20 years ago. Yet, landmines continue to kill and maim, with civilians often suffering the consequences.

Tunlun, 32, lost his leg when stepping on a landmine. He received a protheses from DCA's mobile prosthesis clinic which enables him to work again - and play football. Credit: DCA/Bax Lindhardt

Myanmar Humanitarian Fund and Dan Church Aid partner to save lives

DanChurch Aid (DCA) has been providing much-needed mine risk education, as well as first aid and psychosocial support to landmine victims in Northern Shan State in Myanmar thanks in part to funding from the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF). Mine risk education and first aid are two of the main components of DCA's humanitarian work in the country.

Over the past 10 years, DCA's Humanitarian Mine Action team has trained and supported local partner organizations across Myanmar to deliver safety messages to people living in areas that are contaminated with landmines or explosive remnants of war. The team has also helped landmine victims to obtain the necessary medical treatment to achieve the highest possible level of independence and quality of life.

Humanitarian Funds like the MHF can operate thanks to the generous contributions of our donors. In 2018 the Fund received USD 14,3 million from Australia, Canada, Germany. Luxemburg, Malta, NZ Sweden, Switzerland, UK and the US, which was key to implement DanChurchAid's life-saving work.

When funding makes the difference between life and death Daw Aye Win lives in Man Kan, a small village of 150 households in Namsan Township in Northern Shan State. Tea farming is the main source of income for her family. In Myanmar, this is an activity usually done by women.On a typical day, on 12 May 2018, Daw Aye Win dropped off her 1-year-old daughter at her parents' house and went to work at the farm with her mother and two younger sisters. The farm is adjacent to the road to Namsam town and has a hut where the family can take a break and have lunch. After lunch, as one of her sisters stood up to leave the hut and go back to work, a landmine exploded, injuring all of them.

Luckily, Daw Aye Win's injuries and those of her youngest sister were not too severe, but she saw that her mother was bleeding, and her oldest sister was lying on the ground unconscious. She managed to call her father for help, and they were all taken to Lashio Hospital.

Physical and psychological harm from mine blasts requires emergency and specialist medical treatment, as well as rehabilitation and psychosocial support services. However, these services are often unavailable in countries such as Myanmar because of a lack of personnel trained to deal with conflict-related injuries. In addition, conflict-torn countries often have limited capacities to provide specialized aftercare for victims of explosive weapons.

Following the incident, Daw Aye Win became concerned with how to afford the necessary medical care. Like most villagers in her town, her family could not afford the cost of the care necessary to recover. Daw had to undergo surgery on both of her legs and remained hospitalized for a month, and her mother and sisters also required treatment and hospitalization. The family was able to receive assistance from DCA through the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, which enabled their treatment and recovery.

DCA staff members talks to mine survivors in Namsan Township in Shan State of Myanmar. Credit: DCA

"It happened so close to my home"

Daw Aye May's is very different. She is 56 years old, and with her husband she has raised five children ranging in age from 6 years old to 25 years old. As with Daw Aye Win, the family's primary income comes from picking tea leaves on their 30-acre farm.

"There was a landmine incident on 12 May 2018 near my tea-leaf farm," she recalls. "Four women were injured, one very seriously. I was shocked because this happened so close to my farm, to my home. We were so scared we wouldn't dare to go out to pick tea leaves, even though that's the only means of survival for us. We were just too afraid to step on a mine."

In Myanmar, UNICEF and the Mine Risk Working Group documented 185 mine-related casualties from January to July 2018 alone. Landmine incidents increased by 40 per cent and landmine casualties by 17 per cent over the same period in 2017. Due to access constraints, many casualties are not recorded in conflict areas. Kachin has one of the highest rates of landmine incidents reported in the country and, indeed, the world, with civilians, including children, frequently killed or maimed due to explosions.

"We got to the point where we could not survive any longer without selling tea leaves. Our village head heard about our situation and came to invite me to a mine risk education session planned in our village. He wanted to ensure that all adults in the village would join the session, listen and learn from it."

The mine risk education session was facilitated by TSYU staff from the Ta'ang Students and Youth Union, a local civil society organization active in Shan State, particularly targeting Ta'ang ethnic group. It was attended by 48 women and men. The MHF and partners like DCA work with TSYU and other local organizations in Shan State.

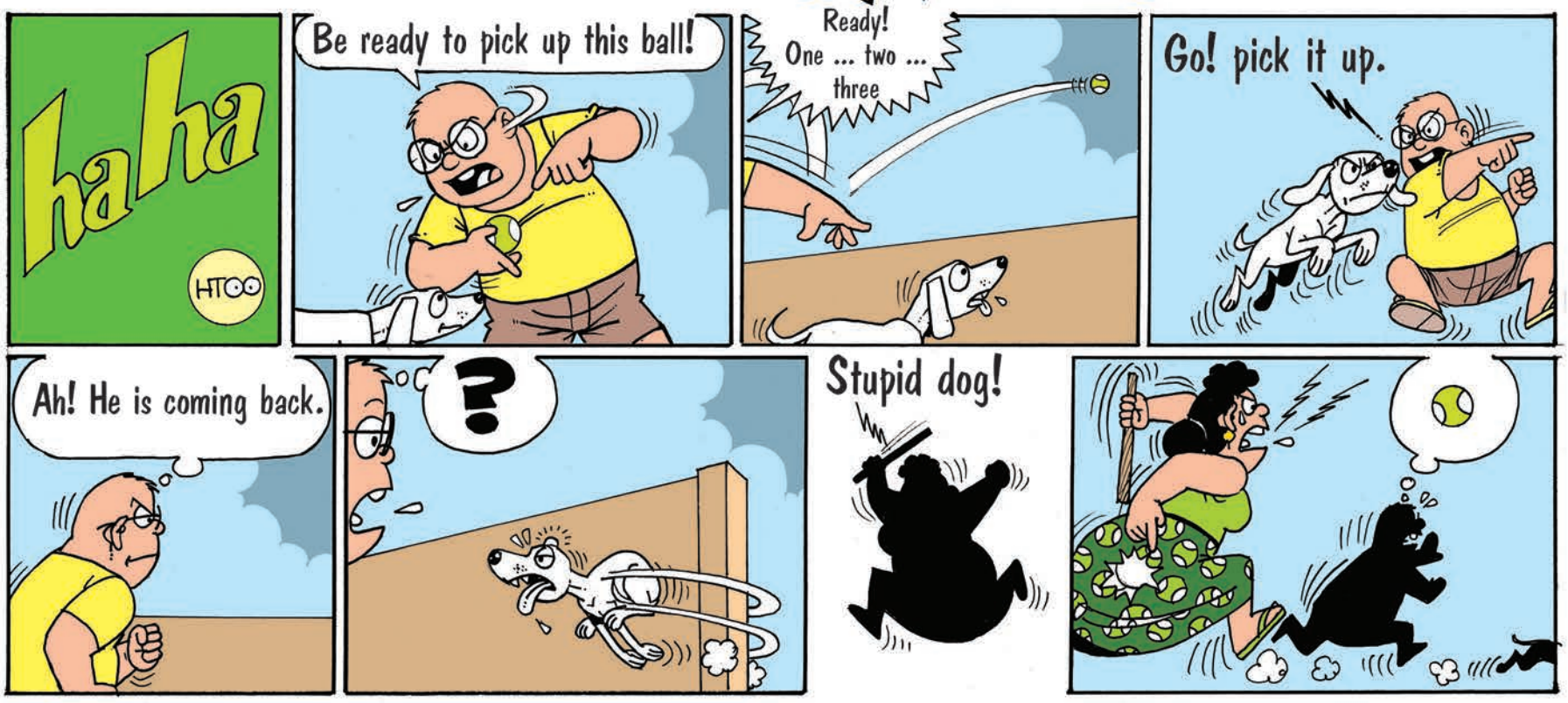
Participants gained in-depth understanding of the danger of mines, how to differentiate the various types of mines, and where and how mines are used and buried by government armed forces or armed groups. Participants were invited to share the knowledge gained in the session with their friends and families.

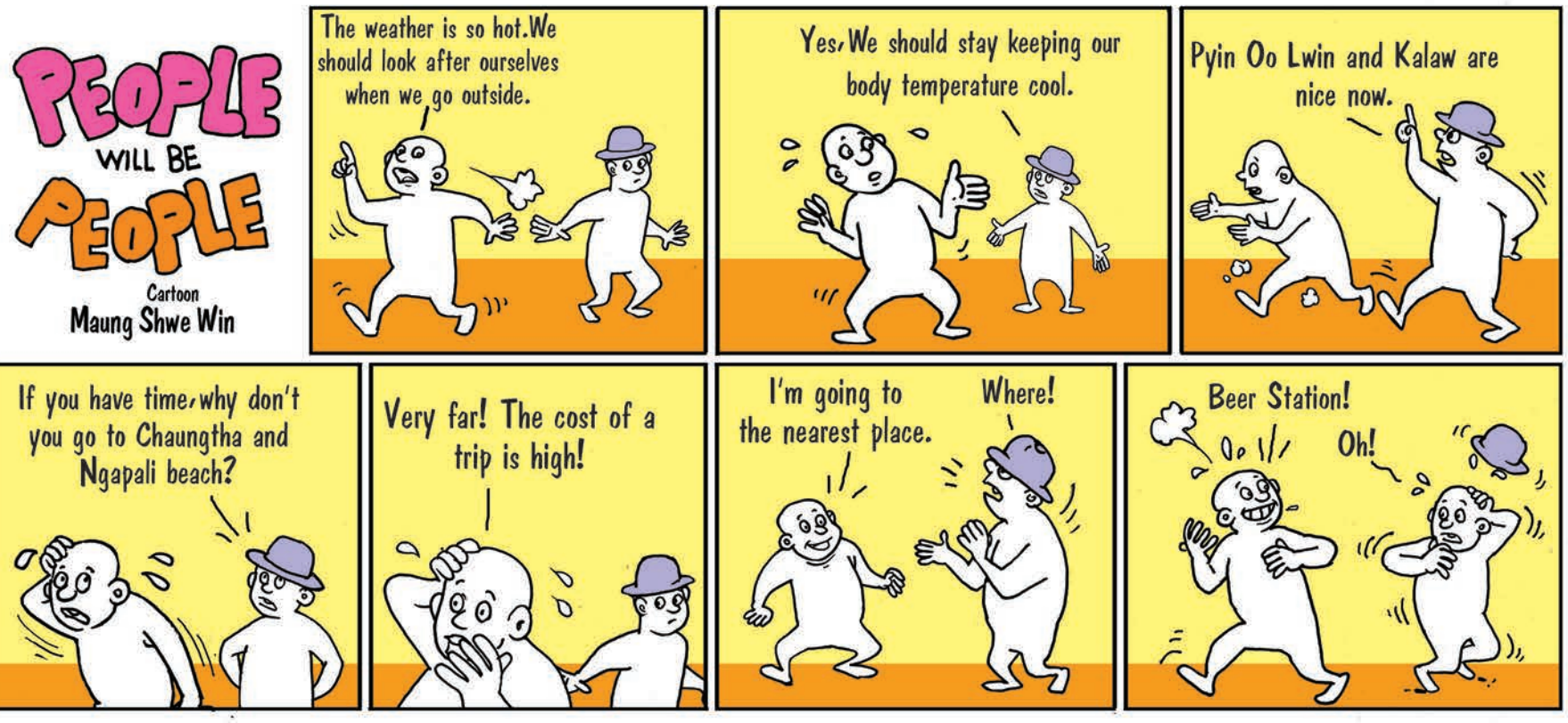
"I am still sharing what I have learned with adults and children in our village," says Daw Aye. "Knowledge is power. Knowing how to deal with the risks gives us more confidence and, most of all, enables us to carry on with our lives."

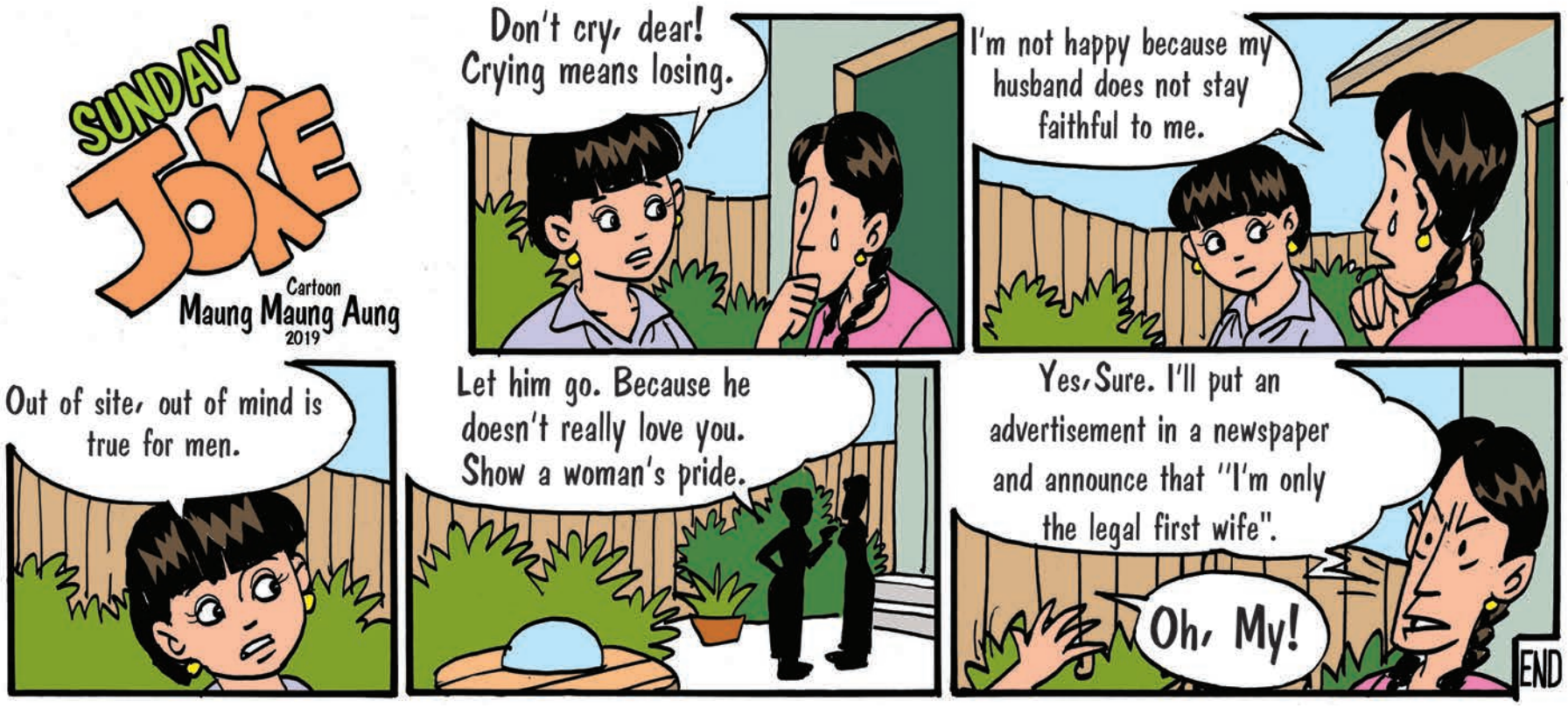
Partnerships such as the one between DCA and the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund mean the difference between life and death for so many people living in countries such as Myanmar. Between 16 October 2017 and 16 July 2018, the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund allocated nearly US$250,000 to DCA and its implementing partners for protection activities, reaching more than 38,000 people. The fund remains one of the most effective means of supporting humanitarian response in Myanmar.

Report from UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

SUNDAY COMICS







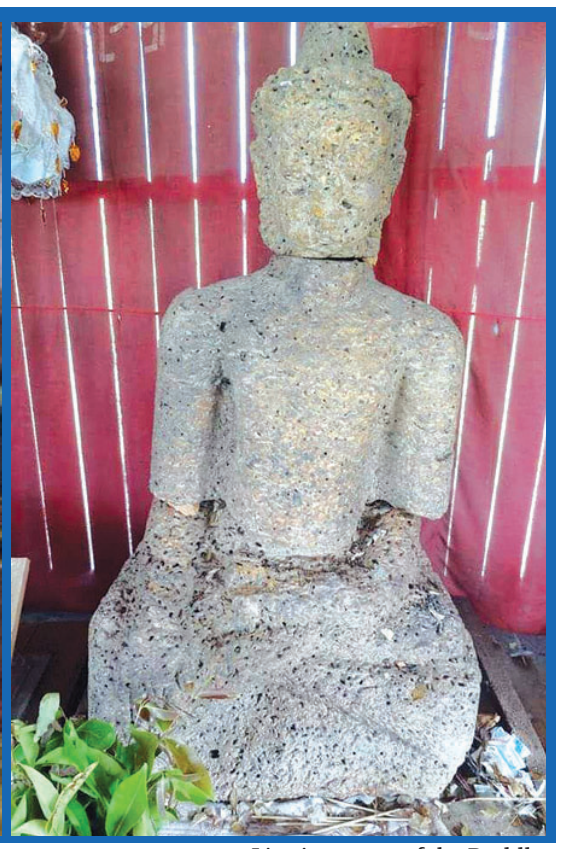
Old city of Kyaungpya : an inclusion of 52 townships in Taungoo District

By Thaungketu

THE old city of Kyaungpya is also known as Kyaukphya old city. Although it was one of Hanthawaddy township, it belonged to the Taungoo Region during the reign of King Min Gyi Nyo. Included in the Kyaukgyi township, Taungoo District, it is situated a mile inside away from the Taungoo-Mopalin Road.

Literite statues of the Buddha, one standing bronze image of the Buddha, bronze trays and otive tablets appeared from a miniature pagoda in 2007. Although three laterite statues of the Buddha were mended again, there were brick tiles of hand-written scratches among lateritic mounds. Duration of brick tiles is not known and the bricks seem lighter than they should have been weighed. The height of bronze statue of the Buddha is about 12 feet on a manner of flight by the Buddha. A hook is attached to the back of the statue with a sharp hook at the bottom to fix on an altar. It is similar to three images found in Tagondaing village which are believed to be in workmanship by AD 7 century, according an expert.

The bronze statue of Buddha.



Literite statue of the Buddha.

> Pagodas of elder and younger brothers are built atop over the hills whereas Mom pagoda is on the plain. The locals believe that the Buddha-to-be as King rooster frequented this area.

Map of ancient city.

Brick slice of antique culture.

Square-shaped fortress town

When looked at an aerial map, the small city looks like a small square-shaped fortress town. The old city in the east is vividly found with a prominent southern moat. The present day Kyaungpya is in the east of old city. The shrines of Kyaungpya Ashigyi and other nats are found on the city walls. In olden days, local populace were terrified by Kyaungpya Bobogyi Nat. In the east of the town, there are PhaungdawPagoda and many miniature pagodas built by King Narapati- Sithu. There are many Mywedaw Pagodas about a mile away from the east of Kyuakpya.

Pagodas of elder and younger brothers are built atop over the hills whereas Mom pagoda is on the plain. The locals believe that the Buddha-to-be as King rooster frequented this area. Upon the pagoda of young brother, the stairways are grand with railings made with cut-laterite slabs. There are holes in the cartwheels of literite slabs.

During Taungoo Era, King Min Gyi Nyo and Kyaungpya Sawbya were engaged in a joust, with winning by the former, naming the seized elephant" the title of king-himself-got-it" described in Taungoo history. Kyaungpya is formerly known as "Yawmin Military Unit". According a survey during the reign of King Bodawpaya in1146, Kyaungpya Yawmin Military Chief spoke up as follows: Territorial land and taxes My grandfather Ngachit-Hla, Ngathe-Shay and grandson Ngamyu ruled the land successively. The wide area of land is 10000 units of measurements; from the east to Katgyi waterfall and from the north up to the mouth of — In the above-mentioned eight regions, ten bushels of rice paddy for ploughing ten acres by a pair of buffalos and two bushels and two pyis for hill-side cultivations were collected for taxation. Rice paddy for taxes were distributed

SEE PAGE- S-8

Next Generation
POEM

The Image of Late Winter

When late winter ends,
Yellow leaves old fall off;
Come out new green buds,
Quite maturely in our countryside.
Sweet songs sung by male cuckoos
So gently and softly in chorus,
Flirting with lovely female cuckoos;
What a unique scene—marvellous!
At our old school quite small,
Voices of farewell sent in returns:
'See you soon and miss you all;
Goodbye til you all return'.
Farmers're waitin' for the rain;
Mountain ranges still covered with mist;
Birds buildin' their nests in pair;
A sweet gust of wind blowin' from the east.

By Linsithu (T.M.S)

FROM PAGE- S-7

governing officials: one bushel for a mayor, a half of the bushel for mayoral clerk, one bushel for barn guard, one bushel for regional office , one bushel for wastage and one fourth for a tally clerk. The rest paddy was sent to Taungoo Court.

In the case of gathering firewood, a tax of K. 10 was imposed for a log of timber.K.10 was collected for a new boat of lumber. Half of K.1 was collected for a sword for use in silted-land cultivation. For a fishing pool,K.2 was collected with K.1 for a fishtrap. Kayin ethnic people every year sent 200 visses of areca nuts as a kind of tax.

Normally a village mayor collected taxes, but a village headman acted on behalf of him when there was no mayor in town, thereby sending all the revenues to the Taungoo Court. Although Kyaungpya, Kyaukmaw, Kyauksayit and Minye-Hla towns were described in the list of Hanthawaddy 32 towns in the book of Burmese Sitan, town and village headmen collected taxes and involvement of military affairs led to abiding by the management of Taungoo mayor.

Taxes for rice paddy and other taxes were collected and sent via Taungoo Court. There are 52 townships in Taungoo District with Nyaunglunt, Talaingthe, Shwemyo and Kinntha townships at the northernmost part and Minye-Hla, Kyauksayit, and Kyaukmaw towns at southernmost part, according to the book.

Kyaungpya remains as a village

Some towns have disappeared, some with new names appeared again. Kyaungpya(Yawmin military unit) Kyauksayit(Kyauktagar), Kyaukmar, Kyaukgyi and Kyauksaung(Phyu township) are known as five Kyaukmaw townships. Nowadays, old town of Kyaungpya has become a simple village which is situated in Mebok village tract, Kyaukgyi township. There was once a difficult transport due to regional insurgency; as peace is restored now with easy transportation, historical heritage such as pagodas and city walls should be properly maintained.

Translated by Arakan Sein

YANGON TO BANGKOK

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG706	5:45	8:10	Daily
8M335	7:30	9:15	Daily
UB-019	7:50	9:20	1,3,5,6,7
TG304	9:50	11:45	Daily
PG702	10:30	12:30	Daily
TG2302	11:45	13:40	2,3,5,7
PG708	15:30	17:30	5,6,7
8M331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	18:00	19:30	Daily
PG704	18:35	20:35	Daily
TG306	19:50	21:45	Daily

BANGKOK TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
TG303	8:00	8:45	Daily
PG701	8:45	9:40	Daily
TG2301	10:00	10:55	2,3,5,7
8M336	10:15	11:00	Daily
UB020	10:20	10:50	1,3,5,6,7
PG707	13:45	14:40	5,6,7
PG703	16:50	17:45	Daily
TG305	18:05	18:50	Daily
8M332	19:20	20:05	Daily
PG705	20:30	21:50	Daily
UB018	20:30	21:00	Daily

YANGON TO DON MUEANG

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
DD4231	8:00	9:50	Daily
FD252	8:45	10:30	Daily
SL201	9:00	10:50	Daily
DD4235	11:55	13:40	Daily
FD254	17:35	19:25	Daily
SL207	19:00	20:55	Daily
DD4239	21:00	22:45	Daily
FD258	21:40	23:30	Daily

DON MUEANG TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
DD4230	6:30	7:15	Daily
FD251	7:30	8:15	Daily
SL200	7:35	8:25	Daily
DD4234	10:35	11:20	Daily
FD253	16:10	17:05	Daily
SL206	18:55	19:45	Daily
DD4238	19:25	20:15	Daily
FD257	20:30	21:10	Daily

YANGON TO GUANGZHOU

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
8M711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7
CZ3056	11:35	15:55	3,6
CZ8472	17:40	22:20	1,5

GUANGZHOU TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CZ3055	8:35	10:25	3,6
8M712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7
CZ8471	14:35	16:40	1,5

YANGON TO SINGAPORE

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
UB001	7:15	11:45	Daily
8M-231	8:20	12:40	Daily
SQ997	10:25	15:10	Daily
3K582	11:30	16:05	Daily
MI533	12:30	19:30	2
MI510	14:55	19:30	4,6
UB003	16:00	20:30	Daily
MI519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI521	18:30	22:55	3,7
3K584	19:35	0:10	1,2,3,4,5,7

SINGAPORE TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
SQ998	7:55	09:20	Daily
3K581	9:10	10:35	Daily
MI510	10:15	14:10	4,6
MI533	10:15	11:40	2
UB002	13:00	14:30	Daily
8M232	13:45	15:15	Daily
MI518	15:15	16:40	Daily
MI520	16:10	17:35	3,5,7
3K583	17:30	18:55	1,2,3,4,5,7
UB004	21:15	22:45	Daily

YANGON TO HONG KONG

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
KA275	17:20	21:45	5
KA251	1:5	5:25	1,2,3,4,6,7
UB8027	7:15	11:45	1,3,5,7

HONG KONG TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
UB8028	12:45	14:15	1,3,5,7
KA250	21:50	23:45	1,2,3,5,6,7
KA252	22:20	00:10+1	4

YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
AK505	8:30	12:45	Daily
MH741	11:20	15:45	Daily
OD551	12:25	16:45	1,4,7
MH743	16:10	20:30	1,4,6,7
AK503	19:10	23:30	1,5,6,7
OD553	23:55	4:20+1	2,3,5,6

KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
AK504	6:50	8:00	Daily
MH740	9:10	10:15	Daily
OD550	10:15	11:30	1,4,7
MH742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7
AK502	17:20	18:30	1,5,6,7
OD552	21:45	22:55	2,3,5,6

YANGON TO SEOUL INCHEON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
KE472	23:30	7:15	Daily

SEOUL INCHEON TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
KE471	18:15	22:10	Daily

YANGON TO TAIPEI

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CI7916	10:50	16:10	1,2,3,4,6

TAIPEI TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CI7915	7:00	9:50	1,2,3,4,6

YANGON TO KUNMING

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CA416	13:00	16:30	Daily
MU2012	13:10	20:05	3
MU2032	16:00	19:50	Daily

KUNMING TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
MU2011	8:20	12:10	3,7
CA415	11:20	12:00	Daily
MU2031	14:30	15:10	Daily

YANGON TO BEIJING

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CA906	23:50	5:50+1	1,3,5

BEIJING TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
CA905	19:30	22:50	1,3,5

YANGON TO HANIO

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN956	18:55	21:15	Daily
VJ918	18:55	21:20	2,4,5,6,7

HANOI TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN957	16:30	18:00	Daily
VJ917	16:30	17:55	2,4,5,6,7

YANGON TO HO CHI MINH

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN942	12:10	15:05	Daily

HO CHI MINH TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
VN943	7:20	9:55	Daily

YANGON TO TOKYO

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
NH814	21:10	6:45+1	Daily

TOKYO TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
NH813	11:00	16:30	Daily

YANGON TO DOHA

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
QR919	7:40	11:55	1,3,4,6,7

DOHA TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
QR918	20:00	5:30	2,3,5,6,7

YANGON TO CHIANG MAI

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG724	13:40	15:30	Daily

CHIANG MAI TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG723	12:05	12:55	Daily

YANGON TO DHAKA

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
BG061	14:15	16:00	1,3,6

DHAKA TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
BG060	10:45	13:30	1,3,6

YANGON TO DUBAI

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
EK389	2:10	5:55	Daily

DUBAI TO YANGON

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
EK388	9:10	16:55	Daily

MANDALAY TO BANGKOK

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG710	14:30	16:55	Daily
PG714	19:15	21:40	Daily

BANGKOK TO MANDALAY

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG709	12:15	13:40	Daily
PG713	17:00	18:25	Daily

MANDALAY TO DON MUEONG

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
FD245	12:55	15:20	Daily

DON MUEONG TO MANDALAY

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
FD244	11:10	12:25	Daily

MANDALAY TO KUNMING

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
MU2568	10:20	13:25	1,3,5,7
MU2030	16:10	19:25	Daily

KUNMING TO MANDALAY

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
MU2567	8:55	9:20	1,3,5,7
MU2029	14:55	15:10	Daily

NAY PYI TAW TO BANGKOK

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG722	20:00	22:50	1,2,3,4,5,7

BANGKOK TO NAY PYI TAW

FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE
PG721	17:25	19:20	1,2,3,4,5,7

AIR LINES CODES

3K = Jet Star	MH = Malaysia Airlines
8M = Myanmar Airways International	MI = Silk Air
AI = Air India	MU = China Easten Airlines
AK = Air Asia	NH = All Nippon Airways
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines	PG = Bangkok Airways
CA = Air China	QR = Qatar Airways
CI = China Airlines	SL = Thai Lion Air
CZ = China Southern	SQ = Singapore Airways
DD = Nok Airline	TG = Thai Airways
FD = Air Asia	TR = Tiger Airlines
KA = Dragonair	UB = Myanmar National Airlines
KE = Korea Airlines	VN = Vietnam Airlines

DATE	
1 = Monday	4 = Thursday
2 = Tuesday	5 = Friday
3 = Wednesday	6 = Saturday
	7 = Sunday

Subjected to change by repesctive airlines.
Hotline - (951) 229245