A CEREMONY to launch construction of Shin Rai International Vocational Institute was held at Laydaukkan (South) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township in Yangon Region yesterday, in the presence of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Mrs Akie Abe, wife of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

It was also attended by Union ministers U Min Thu, U Ohn Win, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Myint Htwe, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, members of the Yangon Region cabinet, MPs, Ambassador of Japan Mr Ichiro Maruyama, officials of the Shin Rai Company Ltd and invited guests.

Speaking at the event, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, “We can say that this stake driving ceremony is not only for a vocational institute, but also for the education of our country. Because our country is in dire need of vocational skills and systems. And not just for our country, but for the world, as well.

“The world has come to see that education is not just for graduation, because there are many graduates who have no jobs throughout the world. Hence, we have to think about how to match education and jobs. I have decided to build our country’s education system with vocational training institutes and departments.

“When it comes to making decisions about our education, we have to think about our country’s strong points. In other words, lagging behind in development can be considered our strong point. Because developed countries have encouraged university education, and it is not easy for them to turn to a system which encourages technological skills. Our country has many requirements in the education sector, so we can establish the education system correctly. Technology is also knowledge and wisdom. Vocational skills are also knowledge and wisdom. I have said repeatedly that wisdom and knowledge can promote our capacity to tackle the challenges in our lives.”

SEE PAGE-2
Find solution based on discussions and negotiations

Our ethnic brothers and sisters must find a solution based on discussions and negotiations free from mistrust and firm in faith. From there, we can proceed in lasting solidarity for the emergence of a Constitution that is fitting for our country and in accordance with democratic practices and federal principles.

(Extract from Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint to the 71st Anniversary of Independence Day Ceremony on 4 January 2019)

Stakes driving for Shin Rai Int’l Vocational Institute held in presence of State Counsellor, Japanese PM’s wife

FROM PAGE-1

“If the education we acquired was not enough to tackle the challenges, the education we acquired remained in books and did not benefit our lives or our surroundings. Hence, we have encouraged the vocational education system and technology. In some developed countries in the world, university education systems and vocational education systems are working together, in parallel. We can not say which one is higher or lower. These two systems are much respected, encouraged and trusted by the people, students and parents in those countries. Why? Because their vocational educational holds the same value as their university education.

“I would like to encourage the parents of our youths. We are building a system which can join education and jobs, and parents are requested to encourage this system. I am also delighted to see their encouragement, and it has also been seen that youths are willing to attend vocational education. This is also the right stand, because they want to get jobs after their education. After their education, they want to stand on their own feet to support their families and parents, whom they owe gratitude. Hence, it is becoming important to get a job after their education is completed. We are very delighted to see this and to continue to encourage it.”

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talk with Mrs. Akie Abe, wife of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

PHOTO:MNA
"Our people love knowledge, and it is one of our traditions. Since childhood we have been taught to pursue education and respect it. Parents and teachers are included in the Five Anando Ananda or the Five Infinite Venerables. As they educate us, we owe immeasurable gratitude to them. When we mediate, first we dispense metta to ourselves and then to the persons to whom we owe gratitude and they include our teachers. We all understand the self-dispensing of metta. From there, we will understand how other people also want peace and happiness. And then we dispense metta to the persons including teachers we owe gratitude to show how much we value and thank them. It is easy to dispense metta for them. If we concentrate our mind on this matter, we can measure the degree of graduate we owe to them.

"The respects-paying ceremony is one of the still remaining fine traditions of our country. Annual respects-paying ceremonies are our unique culture. In fact it is a ceremony in which we show our respects to the wisdom and our teachers. In fact, we also owe gratitude to the education centres, education schools and persons who develop infrastructures, apart from our teachers. They provide us education and collective support in pursuing knowledge. We participate in the groundbreaking ceremony to thank the persons who will benefit the posterity. It’s indeed a privilege and pleasure for me.

"Now I want you to explain the relationship between the economic and education systems. This relationship is very close to technology and vocational education. There will be success only if there is connection between economic system and the education system of a country. Business will meet with success if the education system develops the knowledge required by the economic sector.

"We are still an agro-based country. Agriculture has flourished in our country since long ago. We need much technology for our country’s agriculture system to meet the current age. We can modernize and develop our age-old agriculture system through the use of advanced technology. We are happy to know that the school that will be opened by Shin Rai includes technological lessons.

"Moreover, the inclusion of foreign language courses will broaden the scope of our domain. It will create a global connection, apart from local contacts for us. In this regard, I am so glad that technologies that meet the modern age will be taught, and it is our aspiration. Another point is social relations. It’s a pleasure for me to know that the knowledge of the relations between our friends and would-be friends will be imparted. Social relations cannot be taught only at schools.

SEE PAGE-4
Stakes driving for Shin Rai Int’l Vocational Institute held in presence of State Counsellor, Japanese PM’s wife

FROM PAGE-3

“Parents are the primary teachers. Schools will develop the social relations we have learnt from our society. “A friend once suggested me to teach moral subjects and to pay attention to mental development at schools. I told him that I was trying. Now we have included the Civics in the school curriculum. We were taught civics during our childhood days. But later, it was removed from the curriculum for many years. Sometimes, I was thinking “It was removed because it was no more needed or because of the fear to deal them highly intellect people”. Civics was not taught for many years. But now it is included in the school curriculum again. Basically, civics teaches every citizen his individual rights and responsibilities. “For example, students of good schools have advantages. But there are advantages as well as responsibilities to retain the school’s reputation. Students have the duty to use the advantages of the schools to gain knowledge. Civics has taught the whole country the mutual relations between rights and responsibilities. In fact, it is what we call social relations. It is based on give and take. Only fair compromises and concessions can be called social relations. I am happy to know that the school curriculum includes social relations. I hope lessons will include making fair compromises and concessions internally and internationally. “Not only officials from the Ministry of Education but also from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation are attending this ceremony. It shows the dimension of knowledge as it is related to both the health and environmental conservation. Their integration means development for the whole country. So, once again, I would like to express thanks to all the friends and distinguished guests at this ceremony, and invite your ongoing collective assistance to develop the country and improve the education sector.”

We are building a system which can join education and jobs, and parents are requested to encourage this system.

Rih Lake crowded with visitors during Christmas holidays

MORE travellers have come to Rih Lake, which is one of the famous tourist sites in Chin State, during the December holiday period. Rih Lake, also known as Heart Shape Lake, is 2,966 feet above sea level in Chin State. It is located in Reekkhawda at the border of Myanmar and India, about 90 miles from Kalay, Sagaing region.

“We’ve travelled to Rih Lake from Yangon. I visited there with my friends during the holidays because we wanted to see the nature of Chin Hills. This is our first time to visit Rih Lake, even though it is our second visit to Chin Hills. Rih Lake is more beautiful than we thought. The water of Rih Lake flows slowly at this time. We are happy to see that. We are amazed to see the red water of the lake. We have planned to visit Khaw Nu Soum Mountain regions, as well as other townships in Chin State. Moreover, the lake receives visitors from India, along with other ethnic groups. Visitors can either stay overnight or return on the same day by public bus and in their own vehicles. A small golf course is being built near Rih Lake to promote tourism.”

This year has seen many local travelers arriving at Rih Lake. — Pakkar (Rih lake) (Translated by Hay Mar)
Instruction manual for implementing of case management system launched

The ceremony for introducing the instruction manual for implementing a case management system was held at Hotel Max in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye said Myanmar is a developing country and there are many public needs to be fulfilled.

The related ministries are working together to provide clean water, sufficient electricity, better communications, inclusive education and health to those people who are suffering from social hardships. The changing era and social media are also making the cases more complicated, Dr Win Myat Aye said.

The Union Minister called for systematically solving the cases of children, women, disabled persons and the aged, and said that his ministry was helping the victims of social hardships and natural disasters, by conducting rehabilitation activities.

Based on policies and laws, and drawing up strategies, work procedures are being established to carry out rehabilitation works. The ministry drew up the national social protection strategy in 2014, and a case management instruction manual was prepared in 2015.

As the 2015 manual mainly focused on children, the new instruction manual is to cover all genders and all ages. There are many hardships in human life, the Union Minister added.

He also called for cooperation among responsible persons in the departments and organizations. The new manual includes instructions needed for cooperation in implementing the manual, human capacity development is also required.

Therefore, the ministry is creating case managers and case supervisors. If social organizations, NGOs, the UN and INGO work together, the implementing of the case management system will be successful, the Union Minister said.

Afterwards, the Union Minister posed for a group photo, together with representatives from international organizations and UN organizations.

The launched instruction manual for implementing the case management system will assist the socioeconomic reforming process in the country. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

72nd Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovidia Selection Examination held in Yangon

The ceremony for introducing the instruction manual for implementing of case management system

PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko supplicates the religious matters to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws.

PHOTO: MNA

The 72nd Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovidia Selection Examination being held at the ordination hall of the Mahapasana Cave in Yangon yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

THE ceremony for introducing the instruction manual for implementing of case management system launched

THE opening ceremony for the 72nd Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovidia Selection Examination was held in the Wisaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin Hall at the Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The event was attended by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws led by Chairman Abhidhamma Maharathaguru Abhidhajagamagahasaddhammajotika Bhamo Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa, Sayadaws of Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovidia Selection Board, Members of Sangha, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngin Lin, departmental officers and officials, donors and invited guests.

First, the congregation led by Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko received the Five Precepts from Chairman of Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovidia Selection Board Hlinethaya Township Sasana Gopyi Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharaththa Guru Bhaddanta Pyinnyathara Bhivamsa, and listened to the Parittas recited by Members of Sangha.

Afterwards, Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee delivered an Ovadakatha, followed by the Union Minister supplicating religious matters.

Union Minister, Region minister and officials accepted the cash and offertories donated by well-wishers, and presented them in return certificates of honor.

The congregation listened to the sermon delivered by Yangon Region, Thanlyin Minkyaung Pahthamapaya monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sandima Bhivamsa, and shared the merits they gained.

After Members of Sangha were invited to the seats, the opening ceremony concluded.

In the afternoon, the 72nd Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovidia Selection Examination was held at the ordination hall of the Mahapasana Cave, where the Union Minister donated cash to the Sayadaws.

The Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovidia Selection Examination was annually held since 1948. During the 72 exams, 14 Members of Sangha fully passed the oral recitation of Tipitaka and its writing test.

The 72nd Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovidia Selection Examination will be held until 29 January 2020 for 33 days. A total of 63 monks sat for the oral recitation examination yesterday. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
Union Information Minister receives executive members of Myanmar Music Association (Central)

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received the executive members of Myanmar Music Association (Central) at the meeting hall of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the development of music community, protecting the interests of musicians and unity of music community.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and departmental officers, officials and Chairman U Tin Oo Lay and executive members of Myanmar Music Association (Central).—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Novel Volume (4,5,6) of Hundred Myanmar Classic Book Series introduced in Yangon

MINISTER Dr Pe Myint delivers the speech at the introduction ceremony of the novel volume (4,5,6) of the Hundred Myanmar Classic Book Series compiled and published by Sarpay Beikman, Printing and Publishing Department of the Ministry of Information in Yangon yesterday.

NOVEL Volume (4,5,6) of the Hundred Myanmar Classic Book Series compiled and published by Sarpay Beikman, Printing and Publishing Department of the Ministry of Information were introduced at Sky Star Hotel in Yangon at 6 pm yesterday.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint gave a keynote address on the occasion.

Vice Chairman of the Committee to Publish Hundred Myanmar Classic Book Series Dr. Khin Maung Aye (Maung Khin Min-Danubyu) introduced the Novels Volume (4,5,6).

Union Minister Dr: Pe Myint then presented gifts of honour to literati who wrote the preambles of the three books and literary experts who edited them through Saya U Maw Lin (Moe Zan).

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun presented royalties to Saya U Myint Oo (Maung Thint Khaing-Pynnana), nephew and copyright inheritor Sayagyi Laeti Pandita U Maung Gyi, original compiler of “Tabinshwehti” included in Novel Volume 4, Saya U Kyi Win (Loka Amon) on behalf of the copyright inheritor Sayagyi Shwe Setkyaw U Soe Myint, the original compiler of “Narkandaw” included in Novel Volume 5, and daughters of Sayagyi Zawana on behalf of the copyright inheritors of Sayagyi Zawana, original compiler of “College Kyungtha” included in Novel Volume 6.

Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung then presented royalties to Sayama Ma Waing (Gangawwutyai Literature House), member of the copyright protection committee of Sayagyi Maha Swe, the original compiler of “Doh May May” included in Novel Volume 6, and Daw Thit Thit Thaung, daughter and copyright inheritor of Savaydi Thakin Ba Thaung, original compiler of “Pantha Ma Sar Ou” included in Novel Volume 6. Also present on the occasion were Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein, Minister of Rakhine Ethnic Affairs of Yangon Region U Zaw Aye Maung, MP of Pyithu Hluttaw U Myint Lwin, heads of department, members of the Committee to Publish Hundred Myanmar Classic Book Series, literati who wrote the preambles, literary experts who edited the novels, families of the compilers of the three novels and honoured guests.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint hosted a dinner for all the attendees.

Volume 4 of the Hundred Myanmar Classic Book Series includes “Tabinshwehti” (1924), compiled by Sayagyi Laeti Pandita U Maung Gy; Volume 5 includes two novels – “Narkandaw” (1932) compiled by Sayagyi Shwe Setkyaw U Soe Myint and “College Kyungtha” (1937) compiled by Sayagyi Zawana; and Volume 6 includes two novels – “Doh May May” (1936) compiled by Sayagyi Maha Swe and “Pantha Ma Sar Ou” (1936) compiled by Thakin Ba Thaung.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Myanmar –India bilateral border trade declines by $17.66 mln in this FY

BORDER trade between Myanmar and India reached US$ 23.35 million, as of 13 December in fiscal year 2019-2020, decreasing by $17.66 million compared with the same period last year, according to the statistical report released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 13 December of this FY, Myanmar exported $22.15 million worth of commodities to India, whereas the value of imports from India reached $1.19 million. The bilateral border trade reached $21.96 million in the last year.

The two countries conducted border trade mainly through the Tamu, Reed, Htantalan and Kenglap cross-border trade camps. A major part of bilateral imports and exports are delivered through ships.

India largely exports medicines, oil cakes, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-steel and other construction materials to Myanmar.

Its imports from Myanmar include areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other fruits and vegetables, besides human hair, fishery and forest products.

Myanmar’s total border trade with China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh via the 18 land borders was valued at $2.27 billion, including $1.62 billion in exports and $643 million in imports.—GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Electrical Safety

Don’t cut down trees that are growing near power lines without the permission of the electricity utility authorities.

Call Thin Thin May. 0925102355, 09974424848

Trade Mark Ads
Ministry of Office of Union Government holds anniversary

THE Ministry of the Office of the Union Government held its anniversary day at Thiriha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw at 6.30 pm yesterday.

Present were Union Minister U Min Thu, Deputy Minister U Tin Myint, permanent secretaries, directors-general, deputy directors-general, advisors, directors, officers, employees and retired personnel.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Min Thu said the ministry was established on 23 November 2017. It needed administrative reforms so that it be in line with the work of establishing the democratic federal union system which is the policy of the government in office. Thus, the Government Office that is conducting the democratic federal union, the State Counsellor and regional/state governments will have to make reforms in successive eras and it is included in the general reforms under the theme “Together with the People.”

The Ministry of the Office of the Union Government has opened up the opportunities since the beginning of 2019. It needed administrative reforms so that it be in line with the work of establishing the democratic federal union system which is the policy of the government in office. Thus, the Government Office that is conducting the democratic federal union, the State Counsellor and regional/state governments will have to make reforms in successive eras and it is included in the general reforms under the theme “Together with the People.”

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**Reducing Use of Plastic Products to Reduce Plastic Waste**

By Lokethar

The unruly discarding of waste is a symbol of weakness in our society. As a result, the country has many environmental problems. It is a duty of every citizen to ensure a clean and hygienic environment. We should be more responsible. For example, disposal of plastic waste is a crucial issue. To reduce the use of plastic products, the following steps could be taken.

1. Use reusable bags, bottles, and boxes instead of single-use plastic products.
2. Use cloth bags for shopping instead of plastic bags.
3. Use glass or metal bottles instead of plastic bottles.
4. Use cloth or reusable bags for carrying waste instead of plastic bags.
5. Use biodegradable or compostable products instead of plastic products.

In conclusion, we should reduce the use of plastic products to protect our environment. We should be more responsible and take care of our planet. Let’s work together to create a better future for our children and our future generations. 

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**Weakness in discipline a bane for the future**

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In conclusion, we should reduce the use of plastic products to protect our environment. We should be more responsible and take care of our planet. Let’s work together to create a better future for our children and our future generations.
Iraq rocket attack kills US contractor, wounds military personnel

WASHINGTON (United States)—A rocket attack in northern Iraq killed an American contractor and wounded several military personnel Friday, the first US casualties from a string of recent strikes, the international coalition against the Islamic State group said.

While the coalition did not attribute blame for the incident, it threatens to escalate already-high tensions between Washington and Tehran, which backs various paramilitary groups in Iraq that the United States has accused of being behind rocket attacks on its interests. “One US civilian contractor was killed and several US service members and Iraqi personnel were wounded in a rocket attack on an Iraqi military base in Kirkuk,” the US-led coalition said in a statement.

Federal security forces and Shiite militia units — as well as Islamic State (IS) group sleeper cells — all have a presence in volatile Kirkuk province, which is claimed by both Iraq’s Kurdish minority and Arab majority.

“Iraqi Security Forces are leading the response and investigation” into the attack, which took place at 7:20 pm (2220 GMT), the coalition said.

A US official with knowledge of the investigation told AFP on condition of anonymity that at least 30 rockets hit the base, including an ammunition depot, causing more explosions, while four more rockets were found in their tubes in a truck at the launch point.

The official described the attack as the biggest in the series of rocket strikes launched against US interests in the country since late October, killing one Iraqi soldier and wounding others wounded, as well as causing material damage in the vicinity of the US embassy in Baghdad’s Green Zone.

A US source has said that pro-Iran factions in Iraq are now considered a more significant threat to American soldiers than the IS — the threat that saw Washington deploy thousands of troops to the country to assist Baghdad in countering the jihadists’ sweeping 2014 offensive.

US Secretary of Defense Mark Esper has asked Iraq to “take proactive actions” in response to rocket attacks targeting American interests in the country. PHOTO: AFP

LOS ANGELES (United States)—“The Mandalorian,” the live-action “Star Wars” television series which introduced the world to Baby Yoda, has been confirmed for a second season. Creator Jon Favreau posted the news on Twitter Friday, the same day the first season drew to a close on streaming platform Disney+.

“Season 2 of #TheMandalorian coming Fall 2020,” wrote Favreau, along with an image of a troll-like green space alien.

While a second installment of “The Mandalorian” was widely expected, the Fall 2020 date was welcomed by “Star Wars” fans. PHOTO: AFP

During the first season he formed an unlikely bond with a small, impossibly cute creature officially called “The Child,” but dubbed Baby Yoda by its legion of online fans. The mischievous, wide-eyed tyke has launched thousands of memes, knocked Democratic presidential candidates off the top of news searches, and drawn devoted praise from Hollywood A-listers. Its online nickname stems from its obvious resemblance to Yoda from the original trilogy. But as “Mandalorian” is set seven years after those films, it appears to be a new character.

“Like he had any choice. Had Baby Yoda not been given another season, social media bounty hunters would have uncased Jon (Favreau) in Carbonite,” tweeted industry watcher Exhibitor Relations.

The news comes as “Star Wars” film “The Rise of Skywalker” dominates movie theater box offices around the world.

Despite poor reviews, the conclusion to the decades-spanning “Skywalker saga” of films has already taken $572 million worldwide since its release last week, Disney said Friday.

Disney boss Bob Iger told AFP at the film’s premiere this month that the success of “Mandalorian” was crucial to the franchise’s future. As “Mandalorian” points out, this is just the beginning of what could be an endless set of tales told from galaxies far, far away,” he said.

“The Mandalorian” has given us the ability to be even a little bit more patient (releasing new films) because we feel we’re serving ‘Star Wars’ fans. “And that gives us, I think, the luxury of being even more methodical about this.”—AFP

Mars 2020 rover to seek ancient life, prepare human missions

PASADENA (United States)—The Mars 2020 rover, which sets off for the Red Planet next year, will not only search for traces of ancient life, but pave the way for future human missions, NASA scientists said Friday as they unveiled the vehicle.

The rover has been constructed in a large, sterile room at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, near Los Angeles, where its carrying equipment was given its first successful test last week.

Shown to invited journalists on Friday, it is scheduled to leave Earth in July 2020 from Florida’s Cape Canaveral, becoming the fifth US rover to land on Mars seven months later in February.

It’s designed to seek the signs of life, so we’re carrying a number of different instruments that will help us understand the geological and chemical context on the surface of Mars,” deputy mission leader Wallace told AFP.

Among the devices on board, the rover is armed with two “ears” that will allow it to listen to Martian winds, and lasers for chemical analysis. Approximately the size of a car, the rover is equipped with six wheels like its predecessor Curiosity, allowing it to traverse rocky terrain.

Speed is not a priority for the vehicle, which only has to cover around 200 yards per Martian day — approximately the same as a day on Earth.

Passed by a miniature nuclear reactor, Mars 2020 has seven-foot-long articulated arms and a drill to crack open rock samples in locations scientists identify as potentially suitable for life. —AFP

The rover has seven-foot-long articulating arms, and a drill to crack open rock samples in locations scientists identify as potentially suitable for life.
Massive car bomb kills at least 76 in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (Somalia)—A massive car bomb exploded in a busy area of the Somali capital Mogadishu on Saturday, leaving at least 76 people dead and scores injured, an ambulance official said.

The blast occurred in a busy area of the city where traffic is heavy because of a security checkpoint and a tax office.

The wounded were carried on stretchers from the site, where the force of the explosion left charred and twisted remains of vehicles.

Mogadishu is regularly hit by car bombings and attacks waged by Al-Shabaab Islamist militants allied to Al-Qaeda.

“The number of casualties we have confirmed is 76 dead and 76 wounded, it could still be higher,” the director of the private Aamin Ambulance service, Abdukadir Abdurahman Haji, told AFP.

Police officer Ibrahim Mohamed described the explosion as “devastating”.

‘Dead bodies scattered’

Mogadishu’s mayor Omar Mohamud Mohamed told a press conference that the exact number of dead was not yet known, but that around 90 people were wounded.

“We will confirm the exact number of the number of the dead later but it is not going to be small, most of the dead were innocent university students and other civilians,” he said.

“This was a devastating incident because there were many people including students in buses who were passing by the area when the blast occurred,” said another witness Muhibo Ahmed.

The wounded were carried on stretchers from the site, where the force of the explosion left charred and twisted remains of vehicles.

Al-Shabaab was forced out of the Somali capital in 2011 but still controls parts of the country-side and has also staged attacks in neighbouring Kenya.

Two weeks ago, five people were killed when Shabaab militants attacked a Mogadishu hotel popular with politicians, army officers and diplomats in an hours-long siege.

Since 2015, there have been 13 attacks in Somalia with 20 or more killed, 11 of which have been in Mogadishu, according to a tally of AFP figures.

All of them involved car bombs. The deadliest attack in the country’s history was a truck bombing in October 2017 in Mogadishu which left 512 people dead and around 285 injured.—AFP

More than 235,000 flee intense bombing in NW Syria

BEIRUT (Lebanon)—Civilians on Friday packed a road leading out of a flashpoint town in north-west Syria, where two weeks of heightened regime and Russian bombardment has displaced 235,000 people.

Pick-up trucks carrying mattresses, clothes and household appliances ferried entire families out of southern Idlib province, most heading towards safer areas further north, said an AFP correspondent on the ground.

Since mid-December, regime forces and their Russian allies have heightened bombardment on the southern edge of the final major opposition-held pocket of Syria, eight years into the country’s devastating war.

The latest violence in the jihadi-dominated Idlib region has killed scores of civilians, despite an August ceasefire deal and international calls for a de-escalation.

More than 235,000 people fled the area between December 12 and 25, mostly from the beleaguered city of Maaret al-Numan which has been left “almost empty”, according to the United Nations’ humanitarian coordination agency OCHA.

OCHA spokesman David Swanson said Friday that more than 80 per cent of those who have fled southern Idlib this month are women and children.

“I can’t live in the camps,” said Umm Abdo, a mother of five who recently arrived in a displacement camp in the town of Dama, north of Idlib’s provincial capital.

“The rain is very strong, and we need heating... clothes, and food,” she said, her tired eyes showing through her veil.

Fierce battles, squalid camps

Idlib region hosts some three million people, including many displaced by years of violence in other parts of Syria.

It is dominated by the country’s former Al-Qaeda affiliate, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, whose chief this week urged jihadists and allied rebels to head to the frontlines and battle “the Russian occupiers” and the regime.

—AFP

Violent clashes in new round of Chile protests

SANTIAGO (Chile) _ Thousands of protesters clashed with police Friday in Santiago in a fresh round of anti-government demonstrations that erupted more than two months ago in Chile.

The rally took place in the Plaza Italia, which has since October 18 become the epicenter of massive citizen protests against President Sebastian Pinera’s right-wing government.

Police entered the square in mid-afternoon and dispersed demonstrators with water cannon and tear gas. But after almost two hours of confrontations, thousands of protesters finally occupied the plaza, according to AFP reporters.

“We are going to continue in the struggle until Pinera gives in to the people’s demands,” said Luis Rojas, 46.

Authorities have been trying to restore calm in downtown Santiago, which has been roiled by a crisis that initially erupted over metro fare hikes but quickly escalated into the most severe outbreak of social unrest since the end of the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet nearly 30 years ago.

Furious Chileans have taken to the streets to register their anger over inequality and particularly to vent at the elites that control much of the country’s wealth.

Monday’s demonstration occurred the same day Pinera signed a decree calling for a plebiscite on April 26 to decide whether to replace the current constitution, which dates back to Pinochet’s rule.

Many in Chile see replacing the constitution — which smacks of a dark, repressive chapter in the country’s past — as a way to help end the crisis.

A fire broke out in the Cine Arte Alameda during Monday’s protests — a traditional cultural center near the Plaza Italia that had operated for nearly three decades.

It has also housed medical personnel who came to the aid of wounded demonstrators as unrest has flared.

According to witnesses, the fire started after police threw tear gas bombs at the building. Authorities have not yet responded to the claims. —AFP
2 dead, 12 injured after vehicles pile up in Rewari due to fog

REWAR (India)—Two people lost their lives while around 12 sustained injuries on Saturday morning as dense fog resulted in a pile-up of several vehicles at a crossing on the Delhi-Jaipur highway.

The accident occurred at Saban chawk on National Highway 8 that connects Delhi and Jaipur. The two deceased persons have been identified yet. Their bodies have been kept in a mortuary in Bawal.

Police got the injured persons admitted in a nearby hospital where they are undergoing treatment. “A large traffic jam has been caused due to the vehicles piling up. The police and administration are getting the damaged vehicles removed from the accident site to clear up the traffic jam,” Police said.—ANI

Sri Lanka to increase forest density with tree-planting program

COLOMBO—The Sri Lankan government will next year begin a tree-planting program in order to increase the island country’s forest density from 29 percent to 32 percent of land area within the next five years, the government has also decided. Minister of Environment, Wildlife, Land and Land Development S.M. Chandrasena as saying on Saturday.

According to a report by state-owned Daily News, several government bodies have committed to provide saplings to local farmers for the tree-planting program, including 117,839 saplings from the the Ministry of Environment, 350,000 saplings from the Mahaweli Authority, 115,000 saplings from the Forest Conservation Department, and 20,000 saplings from the Coconut Development Board.

Chandrasena said that the program aims at city beautification and water retention and that saplings from specific species will be selected to perform these functions. Local government bodies will be charged with tending to the saplings and helping them grow to maturity. He added,—Xinhua

Thai Navy SEAL dies after yearlong infection after cave rescue

BANGKOK (Thailand)—A Thai Navy SEAL who aided with the rescue of a youth football team trapped in a flooded cave last year has died from an infection he contracted while working to retrieve the 12 young boys and their coach, The Thai Navy said in a statement posted late Friday on their Facebook page.

After the 18-day ordeal came to an end last June — with the entire team emerging safely from Tham Luang cave — Pakbara was under close supervision by doctors during his yearlong illness.

“But his condition worsened and he died from the blood infection,” said the Navy, expressing “profound sadness” to his family. An official in Beirut’s home province of Lebanon told AFP that Pakbara died on Friday after he died following Islamic funeral rituals.

Another rescuer, former Thai Navy SEAL diver Sai.The “Wild Boars” team became global celebrities and drew extraordinary global interest to the mountainous district of Mae Sai.

The 12-year-old boys and their coach were found alive after a tense rescue operation that lasted two days. Hundreds of divers from 16 countries were involved in the mission to save them.

The rescue mission was the focus of global media attention and was regularly updated by the Thai government on their Facebook page.

On Saturday evening, Thailand’s national anthem was played as the boys and their coach were evacuated from the cave.

“The only thing I can remember is a flash of light. I don’t know how I survived until I was rescued,” said the coach of the “Wild Boars” team in an interview with CNN.

On Friday night, Pakbara was taken to a mortuary in Bawal.

Police got the injured persons admitted in a nearby hospital where they are undergoing treatment. “A large traffic jam has been caused due to the vehicles piling up. The police and administration are getting the damaged vehicles removed from the accident site to clear up the traffic jam,” Police said.—ANI

Invitation for Bids

Date: 30, December, 2019

Bid No. and Title: 43(T)/DPTSC(PTP)/2019-2020 Design, Supply, and Installation of 230 kV Switch Bay (2 nos. Extension at Nyaungbyingyi Substation and 230/66/11kV, 155MVA Gangaw Substation (the Facilities”) to his family. An official in Beirut’s home province of

Deadline for Submission of Bids: 13, February, 2020, 13:00 hours (local time)

1. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) has allocated the financing towards the cost of the project. DPTSC intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which the Bidding is issued.

2. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) (“the Employer”) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Design, Supply and Installation of 230 kV Switch Bay (2 nos. Extension at Nyaungbyingyi Substation and 230/66/11kV, 155MVA Gangaw Substation (the Facilities”).

3. The Eligibility Nationality of the Bidder shall be Myanmar in the case of single contractor. In case of a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of lead partner is Myanmar and other partner shall be nationality from the eligible countries in section 5.

4. International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with Single – Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

- Participation in at least one (1) Contract as main contractor that has been successfully completed within the last five (5) years and that are substation contract, where the value of the Bidder’s participation exceeds US$10 million.

- For the above or other contracts executed as main contractor, a minimum experience within the last ten (10) years in the following key activities:

  - Two projects on turnkey basis successfully in operation for 3 years.

  - 220 kV or above AIS substation with the capacity of 100MVA or above.

  - Each project shall be in outside Bidder’s country for international Bidder. In case of Myanmar Bidder, both outside and within Myanmar are acceptable.

  - Minimum average annual turnover of US$ 8.6 million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years.

6. To obtain further information, inspect the bidding documents and submit the proposal, bidders should contact the following from 9:30-16:30 hours (local time) except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays:

Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)

Address: Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209
Email: dd1ptp.dptsc@moee.gov.mm, dg.dptsc@moee.gov.mm
Fax: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209

7. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders shall pay a nonrefundable fee of purchase order (bank draft) with 50,000 Myanmar Kyats.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before the deadline: 13 February, 2020 at 13:00 hours (local time) together with a Bid Security as described in the bidding documents.

9. Electronic Submission is not allowed.

10. Technical Bid will be opened in the presence of Bidder’s representative, who choose to attend at the address above before 13:00 hr. (local time) within 30 days from the deadline.

11. Any request for the extension of Bid submission deadline shall not be allowed.

Tender Committee

Department of Power Transmission and System Control

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone 067-3410228, 3410209

Invitation for Bids

Date: 30, December, 2019

Bid No. and Title: 43(T)/DPTSC(PTP)/2019-2020 Design, Supply and Installation of 230 kV Switch Bay (2 nos. Extension at Nyaungbyingyi Substation and 230/66/11kV, (3x155) MVA Daung Ywe Substation) (the Facilities”).

Deadline for Submission of Bids: 13, February, 2020, 13:00 hours (local time)

1. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) has allocated the financing towards the cost of the project. DPTSC intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which the Bidding is issued.

2. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) (“the Employer”) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Design, Supply and Installation of 230 kV Switch Bay (2 nos. Extension at Nyaungbyingyi Substation and 230/66/11kV, (3x155) MVA Daung Ywe Substation) (the Facilities”).

3. The Eligibility Nationality of the Bidder shall be Myanmar in the case of single contractor. In case of a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of lead partner is Myanmar and other partner shall be nationality from the eligible countries in section 5.

4. International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with Single – Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

- Participation in at least one (1) contract as main contractor that has been successfully completed within the last five (5) years and that are similar to the proposed contract, where the value of the Bidder’s participation exceeds US$18.4 million.

- For the above or other contracts executed as main contractor, a minimum experience within the last ten (10) years in the following key activities:

  - Two projects on turnkey basis successfully in operation for 3 years.

  - 220 kV or above AIS substation with the capacity of 100MVA or above.

  - Each project shall be in outside Bidder’s country for international Bidder. In case of Myanmar Bidder, both outside and within Myanmar are acceptable.

  - Minimum average annual turnover of US$ 15.3 million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years.

6. To obtain further information, inspect the bidding documents and submit the proposal, bidders should contact the following from 9:30-16:30 hours (local time) except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays:

Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)

Address: Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209
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Fax: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209

7. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders shall pay a nonrefundable fee of purchase order (bank draft) with 50,000 Myanmar Kyats.

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Tender Committee

Department of Power Transmission and System Control

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone 067-3410228, 3410209

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I T’S a time when Yangon was being transformed into an international level city. While it was recognized as a commercial capital of Myanmar by many, there certainly is need for all round development of the town. Provision of sufficient power supply is becoming the main requirement toward development of businesses and investment, both local and foreign, to flow into the city. For this reason, four projects to generate 1,170 MW of electricity in Yangon Region were being implemented in fiscal year 2019-2020.

Yangon had a population of about 7 million with 29 industrial zones. Electricity requirement of households as well as industries were increasing and the four projects aim to meet this requirement.

Four new projects
Of the four new projects, one is Thilawa LNG power station in Kyauktan Township. It is a power station that will generate 350 MW of electricity using LNG. The power station will be constructed within the designated time frame to produce electricity.

The other one is also a LNG power station constructed in the compound of Thakayta gas fired power station in Thakayta Township. This LNG power station will generate 400 MW of electricity and it was also being constructed within the designated time frame to produce electricity.

Ahlon Natural Gas Power Station constructed in the power station compound of Ahlon Township will also generate 151 MW of electricity once completed. A power station constructed in Yangon Region Seikkyi-Khanaungto will generate 400 MW of electricity. These four new power stations will be generating more than 1,000 MW of electricity and will fulfill the electricity power requirement of Yangon Region.

Yangon Region was being supplied with 87.76 percent of its electricity power requirement. Once the power generation projects conducted with Union budget, Yangon Region government budget and loan were completed, electricity requirement to all households will be met until 2020-2021.

Time provided for preparation
Black outs in Yangon dropped significantly this year. Upgrade of underground power lines, repair and replace where necessary of transformers resulted in only short term and temporary power cuts. The short term and temporary power cuts were also scheduled and announced rather than outright failures enabling the public enough time to prepare for the power cuts.

Kawhmu Township Wabaialktuak sub-station and Kunchangon Township Let-kokkon-Poyinsu sub-station were opened by Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) on 7 December 2019 distributing electricity to about 3,000 households from 29 villages in Kawhmu Township and about 2,200 households from 9 villages in Kunchangon Township.

National power grid system
There were some negative feeling from the public about the increase in electricity fee but they were now able to control household usage of electricity. 1.38 million consumers in Yangon Region were reported to be using about 717 million unit of electricity. In a press conference with the media, YECS said electricity unit consumption declined to 695 million units after the electricity fee was raised in July 2019.

While Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Yangon Region government and YECS implement projects and programs to provide full and uninterrupted power supply and the public controls their usage of electricity, more electricity can be provided to industrial zones, special economic zone and industrial cities where it was required.

19 percent increase in annual electricity requirement

Companies from Japan and US were reportedly interested to invest in Myanmar’s power generation sector. Myanmar’s electricity generation was about 3,800 MW and electricity requirement was increasing annually by about 19 percent. This mean the yearly power generation needs to increase by 300 to 500 MW according to publication by Ministry of Electricity and Energey in November 2019.

The power generation projects, once completed, will certainly support the development of Yangon. – Handtip
MFF Charity Cup 2020 to be held on 5 Jan

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Charity Cup 2020, to be played between Shan United and Yangon United, will be held at Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon on 5 January, according to the Myanmar National League.

The Charity Cup is a football match which will welcome the upcoming domestic football tournament, Myanmar National League 2020.

Since Thuwunna Stadium is currently under renovation, football officials have chosen to move the MFF Charity Cup 2020 to Yangon United Sports Complex.

The match will start at 3:30 pm on 5 January. Entrance fees for the MFF Charity Cup are Ks2,000 for grandstand seats and Ks1,000 for ordinary seats.

All money received from Myanmar football fans will be donated to orphansages across Myanmar, according to the statement with the Myanmar National League.

Also, entertainments will be provided before the match.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

MFF-U-19, VUC score big in MFL Week-10


The MFF U-19 Futsal team celebrated a huge win over Let Wel Thone Nara Futsal Team by a score of 9-1, while VUC Futsal team also trounced Win-by a score of 9-1, while VUC Wel Thone Nara Futsal Team celebrated a huge win over Let Indoor Stadium II in Yangon.


The best coach award was given to Shan United head coach U Aung Naing, while men’s best youth player award went to Myanmar U-22 player Myat Kaung Khant.

The women’s best player award went to Yi Yi Oo of Myanmar women’s team and women’s best youth player award was given to Phyu Phyu Win of the women’s football team.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

MFF-MNL Awards Night 2019: David Htan wins men’s best player award

THE defender for the Myanmar National Football Team and Shan United won the men’s best player award at the 2019 Awards Night Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar National League held on Friday night in Yangon.

As he lifted the men’s best player award, David Htan said, “I value and respect what I’m doing as a professional footballer and do my best with all out efforts. I never consider myself to be the best, but I’m doing the best of my ability.”

“All footballers want to play in the attack position, but I tried every position in which my coach wanted me to play. I can play well in two positions, as a right defender and right winger. If a player can play in three positions he must be excellent,” said David Htan.

“The best coach award was given to Shan United head coach U Aung Naing, while men’s best youth player award went to Myanmar U-22 player Myat Kaung Khant.

The women’s best player award went to Yi Yi Oo of Myanmar women’s team and women’s best youth player award was given to Phyu Phyu Win of the women’s football team.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

The Lion returns: Ibrahimovic ready for new chapter at AC Milan

MILAN (Italy) — Same look, same impressive build and same oversized ego: Zlatan Ibrahimovic returns to AC Milan for a final challenge seeking to prove that he remains the superstar he claims to be.

The 38-year-old Swedish striker signed a six-month contract with the struggling Italian giants on Friday vowing to help rescue their season.

“I’m coming back to a club I hugely respect and to the city of Milan I love,” he said.

“I’ll fight together with my teammates to change the course of this season. I will do everything to make it happen.”

Ibrahimovic knows the game in Italy, having played for three different Italian clubs. He first joined Juventus in 2004, moving on to Inter Milan after the match-fixing scandal in 2006, then arriving at AC Milan in 2010 on loan before making the move permanent.

In 85 games for AC Milan over two seasons, Ibrahimovic scored 56 goals. One of the most successful clubs in the world, AC Milan are 11th in the league just seven points above relegation.

The club have come up short in their attacking options with just 16 goals in 17 games.—AFP
A win–win game is a game theory which is designed in a way that all participants can profit from the game in one way or the other. In conflict resolution, a win–win strategy is a collaborative strategy and conflict resolution process that aims to accommodate all participants. It was first used in 1962. However, that theory had already been applied since the days of Ava. Though it was not literally known as a win-win game at that time, a Myanmar historical event happened to use it theoretically and the peace was brought for two enemies.

The event is recorded in the book titled “Maniyadanarbon” by Shin Candalinka. It is found the win-win theory was well applied in the days of Ava. Ava is the age of war and peace. From 1385 to 1424, the two kingdoms: Ava and Hanthawaddy were in long military conflicts. This was known as the Forty Years’ War. These two kingdoms fought against each other not for territories but for their own prestige and glory. The rise and fall of war bring the rise and fall of heroes. In saying heroes, there were two kinds of heroes, those who fought with sharp swords and those armed with intellectual words. Among them, a great sage called “Win Zin Phoe Yar Zar” and “Thihapathe” were also the ones armed with the intelligence. The great sage was a councillor in the court of Ava while “Thihapathe” in Hanthawaddy.

After fighting for many years, both of the two kingdoms became tired of fighting with swords. So, fighting with words was their option. After the war heroes holding spears and swords were in retreat, the scholars’ advance emerged, holding the banners of wisdom. “Phoe Yar Zar” from Ava and “Thihapathe” from Hanthawaddy made an appointment to have a debate. As “Phoe Yar Zar” was a guest to “Thihapathe”, the latter scholar brought a bunch of sugar canes as a gift to show the hospitality of the host. The great sage happily received his gift. Then, he enjoyed it starting from the top of the sugar cane. For Thihapathe was junior to the great sage, he took a place lower than the one of “Phoe Yar Zar”. Thihapathe noticed the way the sage was having a sugar cane, starting from its less sweet part. So, he complained about the great sage why he enjoyed it in this way. The answer of the great sage was simple that he was having the sugar cane according to the Vedas. He added that the Vedas suggest one should enjoy sweet things from its less sweet part to its sweeter part to have a better taste gradually. Thihapathe argued against him that the Buddha preached that the life span of a human is too short and it ends at any second. He also said the sweetest part of the sugar cane should be the first to enjoy as their lives are impermanent. After his words, the great sage was surprised and said “Well done. Well done”. He also admitted he was wrong this time. Then he said that he would follow his advice. The young scholar “Thihapathe” was amazed to find this. What he expected was the argument of the sage against his statement. But, now, the great sage was praising him. Thihapathe said it was rare to find a scholar praises the other scholar’s wisdom. So, he became to admire the sage more than before.
240. After a storm comes a calm.  

241. Home is where the heart is.  

242. Youth is full of pleasure.  

243. Clear writing comes from clear thinking.  

244. A good start is half the success.  

245. We are able.  

246. We want the right man in the right place.  

247. Never believe the impossible.  

248. A picture is a bridge precisely because it does not teach, it does not explain; it does not talk; it is just one more thing among other things.  

249. A picture is nothing but a bride between the soul of the artist and that of the spectator.  

250. Birds of the same feather flock together.  

251. One for all and all for one.  

252. Beauty is that which loves to give, not to take.  

253. A burnt child dreads the fire.  

254. Our motto is not to win but to take part.  

255. The hills, the rivers, the valleys, the tree-shy are the Myanmar I love.  

256. National defence duty is the most sacred duty of a citizen.  

257. They speak like saints and act like devils.  

258. Life is worth living? It depends upon the liver.  

259. Life indeed would be dull if there were no difficulties.  

260. The real dignity of a man lies not in what he has but in what he is.  

261. He who follows two hares catches neither.  

262. A great city is a school for studying life.  

263. Life is made up of marble and mud.  

264. Wealth may seek us, but wisdom must be sought.  

265. A dog never bites the hand that feeds it.  

266. Children live in the world of imagination and feeling.  

267. The first and last thing which is required of genius is the love of truth.  

268. The longer the nights, the shorter the days.  

269. However mean your life is, live it; do not shun it and call it hard names.  

270. Maturity is the ability to control anger, and settle differences without violence and destruction.  

271. Maturity is unselfishness responding to the need of others.  

272. Maturity is the ability to be in peace with that which we cannot change.  

273. There are two classes of poets—the poets by nature, these we love.  

274. As Caesar loved me, I wept for him; as he was fortunate, I rejoiced at it; as he was valiant, I honoured him but as he was ambitious, I slew him.  

275. The human mind is never stationary; it advances or it retrogrades.  

276. There are two kinds of reading—study reading and pleasure reading.  

277. We get what we deserve.  

278. So long as women are born, diamonds will be worn.  

279. Prevention is better than cure.  

280. Necessity is the mother of invention.  

281. The most engaging powers of an author are to make new things familiar and familiar things new.  

282. Mercy is the noblest form of revenge.  

283. Words are out tools of expression.  

284. For everything you have missed.  

285. What is beautiful never dies.  

286. You have gained something else.  

287. For everything you gain.  

288. You lose something.  

289. So long as women are born, diamonds will be worn.  

290. To me the most beautiful scene in the world is a young mother breast-feeding her baby.  

291. The bravest battle that ever was fought.  

292. The bravest battle that ever was fought.  

293. Shall I tell you where and when?  

294. You have gained something else.  

295. For everything you have missed.  

296. You lose something.  

297. For everything you gain.
December is the significant month of a year. It has several festive days such as Christmas, Karen’s new year day, pre-international new year day. December was one of the enjoyable months for me in my teenage because there was a weekly mass walking rally in December. “Let’s sleep early; Let’s get up early; Let’s take a walk early”. This early daybreak song has been heard up to now. At that moment, the mass walk activities were held on Sundays but, now, on Saturdays.

Students, government staff from every office and town-folks gathered in front of the town hall and then walked to the TV transit station which was situated at the edge of the town. The time was about 5 a.m. When we arrived back to the assembly area, the well-wishers shared eatables such as steamed glutinous, fried snacks, etc. When childhood days, we walked for pleasure with friends but not for health. We could guess December was sweet indeed.

Last November was filled with rainy days. However, no sooner did December start than the coolness, a taste of winter, slapped our skins obviously. It cannot be monotonous for me not only to read books on poems, articles or esthetic essays but also using my computer in the cool early morning. Sipping the plain tea, I happened to use internet access on my computer. Unthinkingly, when I watched the news of a local broadcasting medium, I saw The State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs appearing as Agent for Myanmar and delivering the oral presentation at The Hague, the Netherlands. I became aware of the blood circulating more quickly in my body.

In Myanmar’s old mottos, there were some important ones such as ‘If time is alert, we must be united’; ‘I am standing with you’. These have to be regarded as the crucial ones for our motherland. These were not also uttered by the government but were born from the bosoms of the Myanmar nationals themselves. As all readers have already known that our State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made a contest towards the case filed by The Gambia at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Netherlands from 10 December 2019 to 12 December 2019, and came back here. Almost all Myanmar nationals were revealing their supports to the State Counsellor nationwide. As I said the word ‘nationwide’, there include people, Myanmar armed forces, political parties, armed forces from some of the ethnic groups and NGOs, I think. For the trip to The Hague, all were warm up and alert.

Although the Northern breeze of cold December could not make our blood chill, I wish it might be the omen of the dawn of not only internal peace but also peace abroad.

Everyone knows this month as ‘Sweet December’. However, I happen to make a query to myself ‘Could December of this year be still sweet for us yet?’

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Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

Every year, migratory birds from Russia, Siberia, and northern China flock to the freshwater lakes, where there is abundant food, away from colder regions with frozen lakes and smaller food supplies that make it difficult for them to survive.

Winter birds, also called water birds, migrate to the southern regions of the world, including Myanmar, from November to February during their hibernation.

The migratory birds, including Sarus cranes, ferruginous ducks and black-headed gulls, which usually arrive in October every year, leaving the lake by April-end.

A variety of migratory birds can be seen in March.

Migratory birds are found in winter in large lakes, such as Indawgyi Lake in Kachin, Palae Lake and Taungthaman Lake in Mandalay Region, Meiktila Lake in Meiktila, Moeyungyi Lake in Bago Region and some lakes in southern Myanmar.

About 300 to 400 ducks are currently to be found in Meiktila Lake, and local authorities have erected signs, warning residents not to kill migratory birds. Authorities also perform surprise checks at local markets to prevent the sales of migratory birds, while raising awareness about these birds.

The number of birds has decreased this year, compared with the number in previous years.

However, local reports from Taninthay Region said flocks of migratory birds have been found in lakes in Taninthay Region, for the first time this year.

Due to the visiting migratory birds, authorities have sought to educate local residents by erecting billboards warning not to kill the birds, which eat harmful snails in paddy fields.

Translated by Nat Ye Hla
**SUNDAY SPECIAL COMICS**

**PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE**

Cartoon: Maung Shwe Win

One year has passed.

Any idea to do in New Year?

I'll wish for the best in New Year.

You have been wishing for a long time. But nothing has happened.

Something will come. New Year is never ending.

Yes, New Year never ends. But, your life is going to end.

Without making efforts, just wishing can not bring anything.

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**SUNDAY JOKE**

Cartoon: Maung Maung Aung 2017

Hi! Long time no see, my friend!

I'd like to tell you a true story.

When we were at college, we were rivals for a woman.

Yes, Of course. You won.

At that time, I thought you were unlucky and I was lucky.

No! That was wrong. Ten years after I got married her. I became to know that you were lucky.

Oh!
On reflection:
People bid farewell to the passing 2019

By Kyaw Twain

Old and chilly, it was an amazing morning of 2019 for me as I woke up without the help of an alarm clock. Then, standing in front of the house, I gazed at sky of December where the sun hasn’t arisen yet.

“TI TI TI” the alarm that I set for 6 am was ringing. Seen are women carrying baskets going to market. The audio playing of Pathana recitation was making the morning meaningful. Lucky was breathing fresh air except the bad smell of my unwashed mouth. Due to the coldness, goose bumps are appearing hurriedly on my arm.

My mind was orderly occupied by the celebrations and festivals of our country in 2019.

The start of 2019 was a grand three-day New Year Dhamma Congregation at People’s Square in Yangon where the famous Buddhist monument Shwedagon Pagoda is located. The people of various ages including children attended the congregation to listen to the Dhamma talks delivered by three great monks. Then, people in all places of the nation celebrated the 71st anniversary of Independence commemoration on the same month’s 4th.

February was the celebration of Union Day on 12th. The second of March’s celebration was to mark Peasants’ Day. April is said Myanmar people’s happiest month as Thingyan (Water-Splashing Festival) and the New Year of Myanmar are in this month.

I remembered Worker’s Day on 1st May but nothing in June. On 19th July was Martyrs’ Day which commemorates the assassination of Bogyoke Aung San and other martyrs in 1947.

August and September are the months that I can’t call back anything celebrated. Thadingyut (Festival of Lights) was in October, followed by another light festival of Myanmar Tazaungdine in November. On 10th Waning of Tazaungmone was the celebration of Myanmar National Day.

December was a great month with many holidays including Christmas on 25th which the people celebrated recently, followed by Kayin New Year Day celebration on 26th (1st Waxing of Pyatho), and a beautiful flower festival was also in progress in Pyin Oo Lwin.

The celebrations of my country grandly went into harmony in 2019. The lovely festivals and celebrations will be organized again under the same names in 2020 but all will be different as everything changes in a non-stop manner.

The differences should include ‘improvement’. To get such an improved difference needs to reflect the previous year and try hard for the coming year. Unless the old year’s experiences are well reflected, the New Year’s results are difficult to be improved ones.

To establish and live with new improved habits in New Year, reflecting the year 2019 including yourself and people around you is essential. Time is fast, no replay, no rewind. Everything is just moment. New Year should be a new chapter, not the same old story. Wishing you a wonderful New Year.

From Page: S-1

The audience who came to hear their debate thought that the great Sage of Ava was defeated in the debate. But, it was just their thoughts. Thoughts are merely based on the assumptions. And the audience’s assumptions are not concerned with the two scholars. What they needed to take care of is what kind of interest they received from this competition. In fact, none of them were defeated and both of them achieved the victory in that debate. Moreover, both of the two scholars received invaluable things from each other. The young scholar won the debate because he got a chance to meet a righteous wise man and became to realize the meaning of the enlightenment. The enlightenment is in the nature of leaving the ignorance, lust, anger and pride behind. The sage also won the debate as he got an opportunity to know the right way of living and he also could manage to conquer his self, pride and ignorance.

In addition, no one held grudge against each other and other scholars received invaluable things from each other. The audience who came to hear their debate made the morning meaningful. Lucky was breathing fresh air except the bad smell of my unwashed mouth. Due to the coldness, goose bumps are appearing hurriedly on my arm.

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# The Night of a Bright New Year

Banners fly on neighbors' doors
Streets piled in white – it's snows galore!
Clouds overflow in crystal tears
On the night of a snowy new year.

Give the poor and needy gifts
Give the sad one's life a lift
Give the poor and needy gifts
For the start of a happy new year.

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**INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE**

**YANGON TO BANGKOK**

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**YANGON TO GUANGZHOU**

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**YANGON TO TAIPEI**

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**Subjected to change by respective airlines.**

**Hotline** - (95) 229245

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**NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM**

**THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

**By Moe Pwint Tin**

Grade 9