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Nandawshae Reading Association in Mandalay celebrates 100th birthday

Former President U Htin Kyaw, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Mandalay Region Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Minister Dr Soe Than, Mandalay Mayor Dr Ye Lwin, Pyithu Hluttaw MP Dr Hla Moe, and Chairman of the committee for holding the Centenary of the Nandawshae Reading Association U Kyaw Thin cutting a ribbon during an opening ceremony yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

CENTENARY of the Nandawshae Reading Association was observed at Nandawshae Football Ground in Aungmyathazan Township, Mandalay Region yesterday morning, graced by Former President of U Htin

Kyaw.

Speaking at the ceremony, Former President of U Htin Kyaw expressed his view that Mandalay of Shwemaw as it is called is city where cultural heritage flourishes and is con-

served. The Former President continued to say that the 100th anniversary of the Nandawshae Reading Association is an honour for the city. He said it is not an ordinary association as it's activities involve art, literature

and religion. The association was relocated for several times within the area in front of the Mandalay Palace during the 100 years, and since 1938, the association has been in the current place. I wish the association con-

tinuous progress for many years through the support of the citizens of Mandalay City, various organizations, booklovers, and advocates of culture.

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Union Education Minister attends Education World Forum in London



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi attends the Education World Forum in London. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi attended the Education World Forum in London, the United Kingdom, from 19 to 22 January.

The theme of the 2020 Education World Forum is One generation – what does it take to transform education?

At the forum, Education Minister of the United Kingdom Mr Gavin Williamson delivered an opening speech, followed by

academics reading their research papers on education including difficulties and future cooperation on education sector.

During the visit, the Union Minister separately met with Mr Andrew Stephenson, Minister for Department for International Development-DFID, Ms Heather Wheeler, FCO Minister for Africa and Pacific, and MP Mr Paul Seully, Trade Envoy to South East Asia in the United Kingdom,

and discussed matters related to UK’s cooperation on Myanmar’s education reform.

The Education Minister also attended the ASEAN Ministers Meeting led by Ms Michella Donlon, Minister for Children and Families of the United Kingdom. The title of the meeting is “Teacher Training and Soft & Employability Skill” and discussed matters related to education cooperation between the United Kingdom and

ASEAN countries.

He also attended the Roundtable discussion on Higher Education in the United Kingdom and International Collaboration in Mobility and Exchange led by Mr Chris Skidmore, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, and discussed matters related to higher education and research cooperation.

At Oxfordshire Teaching

School Alliance in Oxford and Advance H.E and University of Greenwich in London, the Union Minister also met with the officials and discussed matters related to cooperation on training of teachers and higher education.

The Union Minister also met with Myanmar students and families studying in the UK at the Myanmar Embassy in London and encouraged them. — MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

No Coronavirus infections found in Yangon Region: MoHS

No novel coronavirus patient is found in Yangon Region, although Wuhan in China is facing the outbreak of the pneumonia and the Waibagi Hospital in North Okkalapa has already prepared for real time treatments should anyone is found contacted with the virus, according to Public Health Department office of Yangon Region.

We have no novel coronavirus patient in Yangon Region till now. We even have no one suspected of infecting with the virus. And if a novel coronavirus patient is found, Waibagi Hospital in North Okkalapa is ready to provide treatment, said Dr. Tun Myint, deputy director general of Public health Department.

Public Health Department has instructed private hospitals to inform it in real time if they found any novel coronavirus patient or any patient with suspected novel coronavirus.

The instruction includes the method of sending the information, the symptoms and particulars of the virus and the signs of a patient.

The Ministry of Health and Sport is carrying out preventive



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe inspects the preparations to prevent outbreak of coronavirus. PHOTO: MNA

safety measure against novel coronavirus with added momentum at Yangon and Mandalay International Airports, sea ports, border crossings, especially the ones with the People’s Republic of China.

We have taken every safety measure at all the terminals of Yangon International Airport. We have arrangements for sending a suspected patient directly to the ambulance without passing through the public walk-

ways. We have also arranged rests rooms for temporarily keeping a person if he is found with suspected novel coronavirus, said Dr. Tun Myint.

The Yangon Region of the Public Health Department will broaden its awareness campaigns on the novel coronavirus.

The daily flights of Wuhan-Yangon and Wuhan-Mandalay runs of China Eastern airways have been suspended to prevent the spread of novel

coronavirus in Myanmar, according to the Department of Aviation.

Depending on the type of the virus, the novel coronavirus cause can range from the common cold, illness and cooing to more severe diseases such as the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), kidney damage and even loss of life, said Dr. Khin Khin Gyi of Publid health De-

partment.

Most of the novel coronavirus species spread among the animals, and human-to-human infection is rare. but certain types of the virus can cause people-to-people infection. mostly, health staff or families who are

The daily flights of Wuhan-Yangon and Wuhan-Mandalay runs of China Eastern airways have been suspended ...

closely living with the patients are vulnerable to infection, she explained.

The Myanmar Embassy in Beijing has inform Myanmar citizens arriving in China for various reasons to strictly follow the preventive measures, and health instructions being issued by the country and to ask help from the embassy in case they find any difficulty. — Min Thit (MNA)
(Translated by TMT)



Nandawshae Reading Association in Mandalay celebrates 100th birthday



Former President U Htin Kyaw delivers the speech at the centenary celebration of Nandawshae Reading Association. **PHOTO: AUNG PHYO KYAW**

FROM PAGE-1

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint in expressing his delight said the existence of an association for 100 consecutive years is really amazing and an honor for Myanmar. The founders of the association include Nandawshae Saya Tin, a well-known artist, and U Razak, a prominent educationalist. Established in 1912, the association was registered as the Nandawshae reading association (a comprehensive reading body) in 1920. Myanmar is holding or arranging other centenaries this year.

The country is holding the Centenary of Yangon University and is planning to observe the Centenary National Day that marks the national movement occurred in 1920. Moreover, it will sponsor the Centenary of Myanmar Films that appeared in 1920. so 1920 can be called a turning point in Myanmar history, said the Union Minister.

The years following 1900 saw the renaissance of national spirit and the emergence of a large number of literary, religious and social organizations, which would be much supportive for the independence struggle, and YMBA was

The country is holding the Centenary of Yangon University and is planning to observe the Centenary National Day that marks the national movement occurred in 1920.

one among them. In 1920, the General Council of Burmese

Associations (GCBA) emerged. So, 1920 can be viewed as a vital year in the history of Myanmar, the Union Minister said. He expressed his belief that the association might serve as a source for endeavours in the national interest, apart from a place where people could read books and hold literary talks.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said 1920 would be the period of renaissance, during which much undertakings were carried out in the quest for knowledge and unity. It is possible that we fell under enslavement for we lacked knowledge of the global developments and trends of the time. The three famous words of the wise men of that period were “Let Myanmar knows the world!”, “Let the world knows Myanmar!”, and “Let Myanmar people know Myanmar!” The Nagani (Red Dragon) Association enhanced global and polit-

ical awareness. The period saw the struggles for independence and global recognition through reading sessions, literature talks and library activities. Myanmar needs more libraries, as we can know more about the world through reading associations, collective reading and knowledge sharing activities and literary talks.

The Union Minister lauded all the founders of the Nandawshae Reading Association and all persons involved in maintaining the literary body throughout the successive years till now. All should carry on the spirit and activity, he stressed.

Dr. Soe Than, a cabinet member of Mandalay Region Government, explained salient points of the library and writer Chit Oo Nyo and Chairman of the Committee to Hold the Centenary U Kyaw Thin gave speeches.

First, former President U Htin Kyaw, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Soe Than, Mandalay Mayor Dr Ye Lwin, Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Hla Moe and Chairman of the organizing committee of the Centenary of the Nandawshae Reading Association, U Kyaw Thin cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the 100th anniversary of the Nandawshae reading association.



School children browse books displayed at the centenary celebration of Nandawshae Reading Association. **PHOTO: AUNG PHYO KYAW**



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivers the speech at the 100th birthday of the Nandawshae Reading Association in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: AUNG PHYU KYAW**

Nandawshae Reading Association in Mandalay celebrates 100th birthday

FROM PAGE-3

After the opening ceremony, former President U Htin Kyaw, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Mandalay Region ministers and special guests looked around the booths and bookstalls exhibited in the Nandawshae Sports Ground and the Nandawshae Reading Association, which is the oldest such association in Mandalay. Its founders include prominent persons like U Dhamma Bhivamsa, who took part in the Sixth Buddhist Synod, U Razak, former Minister of Education and National Planning and Nandawshae Sayar Tin, an artist.

The association with a membership strength of over 10,000 is keeping over 35,000 different kinds of books including rare books, periodicals, newspapers, palm treatise, reference books.

The ceremony which includes evening literary talks, entertainment programs and literary and art booths continues till 27 January.—Min Htet Aung (Mann Sub-printing House)

(Translated by TMT)

It's about time we are in quest for realizing Myanmar 4.0: Union LIP Minister

MYANMAR Skills Competition 2020 was opened at the Tatmadaw Convention Centre in Yangon yesterday morning to select a team representing Myanmar at the ASEAN competition.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe said the Myanmar Skills Competition 2020 will be the touchstone of the efficiency of the youth labour, a notable force of the socio-economic relations of Myanmar. Moreover, the competition will be a gathering point of professionals and the strength for all organizations involving in developing competency of the economic and career development policy makers, personnel of the vocational education sector, micro, small and medium entrepreneurs and organizations improving the industrial skills.

The world is now at the stage of using the industrial 4.0 through continuous evolution and rapid progress of multiple fields based on advanced technology including economic, social, industrial, education, health, transport and trade sectors. Alongside the new movement, the world sees some of the sectors adopting education 4.0, HR 4.0, economic 4.0, marketing 4.0, and banking 4.0 that are based on the industrial 4.0. Meanwhile, the ASEAN is implementing the ASEAN Empowering 4.0 which is based on future technology, market trends, employment opportunities, human resources



Union Minister U Thein Swe visits the booth at the Myanmar Skills Competition 2020 in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

development and micro, small and medium enterprises. So, it's about time Myanmar is in the quest for realizing the Myanmar 4.0 through discovering new assets by promoting the qualifications of the labour force. Here the adoption of the up-to-date versions of professional competencies and curriculums has become an urgent matter, said the Union Minister.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein also gave a speech.

The Union Minister and officials formally opened the Myanmar Skills Competition 2020 and looked around the displays and watched competitions at the venue.

The Myanmar National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA) served as the main sponsor and automobile entrepreneurs led by Myanmar Motor Corporation Public Co., Ltd, Pyae Soan Win Naing Distribution Co., Ltd (PSWN) and Zaya & Associate Group Co., Ltd and their partners, Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency (LuxDev), Swisscontact and German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) acted as contributors for the success of competition.

Of the youth contestants of the automobile technology, refrigeration and air-condition, electrical installation, restaurant service and cooking competitions, the outstanding ones will be sent to a special training camp to represent Myanmar at the 13th ASEAN Skills Competition 2020 that will be held in the coming July.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)

MRTV's Broadcasting Governing Body holds first meeting in Yangon

BROADCASTING Governing Body (BGB) of the Ministry of Information held its meeting 1/2020 at the meeting hall of Myanmar Radio and TV in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the BGB's first meeting in 2020, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun in his capacity as its chairman gave a speech, saying that some of the matters need face-to-face discussions and collaboration among the stakeholders as media is no more an exclusive industry in the democracy era. The facilitation of the industry depends on collective efforts towards a platform where inclusive survival is possible.

It is common knowledge that many cases are beyond the reach of the Information Ministry. As regards the requirements, the Deputy Minister invited open discussions.

Vice Chair of the body Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung explained functions of the MOI, financial matters, amendment of contracts, challenges faced in the digitalization of TV programs, and transformation from SD to HD of MRTV channels.

Officials of MRTV presented matters relating to broadcasting and progress in realizing the meeting minutes of meeting 5/2019. —MNA

(Translated by TMT)



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

Chilli pepper yields, prices high in Pakkoku

THE yield of chilli peppers in Pakkoku and its prices this year were higher than last year, according to U Tin Soe, a farmer from Myin Wun Village.

Chilli pepper is a major crop of the villages located along the Pakkoku-Myitchay Road, and thousands of acres of chillies are being cultivated in those villages of Mikepin Kone, Myokhin Tha, Thatyetpin Su, Nandaw Yat, Myin Wun, Bae, Aung Tha, Kalar Chaung, Nyaungbin, Uyin,

Nangup and Nga Kyaw. The yield of chillies this year is about 300 visses per acre and higher than last year. Its price also increased and a viss of it fetched K 500 this year. Therefore, the chillies were being transported to not only Bayintnaung Market but also other depots in different townships. (1 viss = 1.63293 kg) The chilli yield of the whole Pakkoku region is estimated some 850,000 visses, U Tin Soe added.—Ko Tamar (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun.)



Chilli pepper is a major crop of the villages located along the Pakkoku-Myitchay Road.
PHOTO : KO TAMAR (IPRD)

Thai-Myanmar border trade value reaches \$1.08 bln

THE value of Thailand-Myanmar border trade from 1 October to 17 January this Financial Year 2019-2020 reached more than US\$1.08 billion, which was an increase of \$110 million against last FY,



Myawady Trade Zone is Myanmar's second largest border trading post. **PHOTO : HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The country's export to Thailand totaled \$746 million, while its import shared \$339 million during the period. Last FY, bilateral trade was \$975 million.

Myanmar mainly conducts border trade with neighbouring Thailand through seven border checkpoints, including the Tachileik, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese gates.

During the period of this FY, Hteekhee border gate witnessed the greatest bilateral border trade value of \$554 million, followed by Myawady with \$317 million and Kawthoung with \$110 million.

The country's agricultural and fishery products are exported to Thailand, while cosmetics, food products and machinery and raw industrial goods, such as cement and fertilizers, are imported.

The country is also trading with neighbouring countries China, India and Bangladesh. Sino-Myanmar border trade is through Muse, Lweje, Kanpiketee, Chinshwehaw 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 Maungkaw.

Border gates, as of 17 January this FY, totaled nearly \$3.2 billion, which increased \$676 million over the last FY.—Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar-India border trade decreased by \$14 mln this FY

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and India via land border amounted to US\$ 42 million in this fiscal year between 1 October and 17 January, according to the latest statistics related by the Ministry of Commerce.

The bilateral border trade, as of 17 January this FY, included \$41 million in exports and \$1.5 million in imports.

The current trade value is over \$14.2 million less than that of the same period of last fiscal year's total of \$56.7 million.

Myanmar-India trade is conducted through the Tamu, Reed, Htan Ta Lan and Kenglap border points of entry as well as shipping.

Myanmar mainly exports fruits and vegetable, fishery and forestry products to India, while importing medicines, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials.

The country is also trading with these neighbouring countries- China, India and Bangladesh. Sino-Myanmar border trade is through Muse, Lweje, Kanpiketee, Chinshwehaw 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 Maungkaw.

Border gates as of 17 January this FY totaled nearly \$3.2 billion which increased \$676 million more than last FY.—Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Emblc Myrobalan farmers earn good incomes in Yenangyoung

LOCAL farmers from Yenangyoung Township mainly grow emblc myrobalan, also known as Indian Gooseberry, earning good incomes from growing emblc myrobalan, according to local growers.

Emblc myrobalan is traditionally grown on farm land and bears fruit once a year. Individual trees provide five to eight baskets, depending upon the species.

“Currently, local farmers grow 200 trees of emblc myrobalan. They grow emblc myrobalan on a commercial scale to earn extra income. An emblc myrobalan tree can produce five baskets. One basket is sold for K 500,000. This is extra income for us,” said U Win Hlaing, a local farmer from Yenangyoung Township. “Nearly 200 farmlands were found growing emblc myrobalan in Yonegone village. Those traditionally grow by themselves. But now, we are glad that local farmers grow them on a commercial scale,” he added. Local people enjoy emblc myrobalan as a side dish during charitable ceremonies. The emblc myrobalans are also sent to Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mawlamyine as seasonal fruits.—Hsan Nyount (Yenangyoung)

(Transalted by Hay Mar)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS
Zaw Htet Oo
Aung Khin
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
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
Kyaw Zeya

COMPUTER TEAM
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe,
Nyi Lin Thu

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

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Union Minister, health authorities discuss 2019-nCoV virus prevention, surveillance

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe held a meeting with health regional and state authorities in Yangon on ensuring preparations for prevention and response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and inspected the ground situation of the preparations.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe has urged the health authorities to closely supervise the border gates in their respective areas and to report the situation to the central body for fighting the infectious diseases-CEU in timely manner.

He also stressed the importance of putting the travellers from the outbreak countries under surveillance despite no symptoms when they are arrive, urging the authorities to keep in touch with hotels and guest houses where they are staying to get updated information.

Besides, staff of the departments at the international airports and staff of the hotels



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivers the speech at the meeting with State and Region level health authorities in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

should be educated with the disease, prevention tactics and duty consciousness to report the suspicion to the authorities concerned, he said.

In his remarks, the Union Minister also requested the Ministry of Transport and Communications to ensure filling the Health Declaration Form by every traveler on the international airlines. He also called for keeping on watch the situation in China and other countries

and to be on alert on response to the disease.

Following the meeting, the Union Minister visited the Wai-bargi Special Clinic and inspected the preparations for response to the coronavirus. Afterwards, the Union minister and party went to the Yangon International Airport and inspected the surveillance work being carried out by the health staff of the ministry there. At the airport, the Union Minister held a meeting

the officials of the airport and gave instruction on preventive measures with the use of protective equipment and surveillance work. The Union Minister and party also visited the laboratory of Aung San TB Hospital in Insein Township. During the visit, he called for seeking help from the World Health Organization and US's CDC to provide the necessary lab equipment for the coronavirus.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Shwetaung sub-power station to be built in Wundwin

THE Shwetaung sub-power station, which has a capacity of 33/11 KV and 5MVA, will be built in Wundwin to supply electricity to 43 villages from Wundwin township, Mandalay region, according to an official from the Meiktila District Electricity Manger Office.

As part of the government's

programme of rural electrification, Shwetaung sub-power station will be built along the Mandalay-Yangon old highway during the 2019-2020 fiscal year to supply electricity to 43 villages near Shwetaung village, Wundwin township. The project will be carried out by Unique Comm Group Co., Ltd, under the

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) programme, and is to be supervised by the Mandalay electricity Supply Corporation (MESCO).

Upon completion, the station will supply electricity to 43 villages, said U Yu Maw, an engineer from the District Electricity Manger Office.

Similar electric projects are funded by regional budgets, public finance initiatives (PFI), National Electrification Project (NPE) funding and through a self-help basis system. Currently, 30,680 households from 113 of 218 villages access electricity.—Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

2020 Seed Fair to be held at State Agricultural Institute, Pyinmana

THE 2020 Seed Fair will be held at the State Agricultural Institute, Pyinmana Town, Nay Pyi Taw, from 28 to 30 January.

The aim of the seed fair is to promote cooperation among farmers, private businesspersons and those who are doing in seed sector.

Farmers and crops pro-

ducers are trying to easily obtain better and pure seeds as crops' health, resistance to climate and pests, and yield quality are depending on quality of seeds, according to the seed division.

More than 15 species of seeds and young plants in departmental and private booths

will be displayed at the event. The sales booths of agricultural machinery companies will also be included.

The mobile software distributed by Department of Agriculture will be installed free, and the use of them will also be taught by experts at the event.

The seed fair will be held

at 7 am to 5pm on the dates and anyone who are interested can join free of charge. For more information, please contact at phone: 09 448 537 486 and 067 410 328, according to Daw San Kyi, Deputy Director of Seed Division.—Hmwe Kyu Zin

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Officials inspecting the skinned elephant carcass in Nagpudaw on 24 January. PHOTO: HLA MIN HTUT (IPRD)

Skinned carcass of elephant found in Ngapudaw

A skinned elephant carcass was found in Nagpudaw, Ayeyawady Region on 24 January, and police are seeking to arrest the poachers. The carcass was found during a routine patrol by rangers in the Hsinma Forest Reserve.

The carcass was missing its

tusks and ears, according to officials. Leather from the carcass was found near the site.

Authorities and police are carrying out operations in the area to apprehend the poachers.—Hla Min Htut (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Isabel dos Santos' graft scandal ups stakes for Angola

LUANDA (Angola) — Allegations of corruption swirling around his predecessor's daughter have set a crucial test for Angolan President Joao Lourenco in his vow to reform a country rich in oil and tainted by graft.

Isabel dos Santos, the 46-year-old billionaire daughter of ex-president Jose Eduardo dos Santos, is being probed for allegedly siphoning off millions from state companies and stashing the funds overseas.

Analysts say the mounting

scandal raises the stakes — not just for the dos Santos family and elites who prospered during the ex-president's 38-year rule, but also for Lourenco himself.

"A lot rests on this case," said Berlin-based Transparency International's southern Africa advisor, Mokgabo Kupe.

Dos Santos "is a symbol of the fight against corruption," said Oxford University fellow and Angolan law professor Rui Verde.

"If (she) is charged, of course, everyone could be charged."

Dos Santos was indicted this week for a host of top-level financial crimes, including money laundering, influence peddling, harmful management and forgery of documents.

On Friday, Angolan Chief Prosecutor Helder Pitta Gros said funds that she invested in Portugal, the former colonial power, were transferred "by illicit means." Lourenco's administration is now looking into ways to bring her back home to face justice. But how it intends to do that is unclear. Dos Santos has been living in Europe since Lourenco fired her as head of the state oil company Sonangol in 2017, soon after he took over from her father.

The powerful businesswoman strongly denies the allegations, which she characterises as a witch hunt, and says her wealth is legitimate and earned the hard way.

On Thursday she vowed she was "ready to fight through the international courts to defend my good name" — an indication she would fight attempts to bring her to face trial.—AFP ■



In the spotlight: Isabel dos Santos. PHOTO: AFP

Wind forces Boeing to again delay first flight of 777X

EVERETT (United States) — High wind forced Boeing to again delay the inaugural flight of its long-haul 777X aircraft on Friday.

"We'll try again tomorrow," Boeing said on Twitter, aiming for a 10:00 am (1800 GMT) flight from the airfield in Everett, Washington near the company's headquarters.

"Wind levels prevented us from flying today. We will continue to provide updates on our website and through social media."

The new aircraft in its blue and white company colors, remained on the tarmac of Boeing Field, in the suburbs of Seattle where the wind was blowing hard enough to shake the camera in place to document the flight live on social media. This first flight

— the start of a whole battery of flight tests — had been scheduled for Thursday but was pushed back due to poor weather, common in this region in winter.

The 777X originally was due to take to the skies for the first time in mid-2019, but was postponed due to problems with the new engine, manufactured by General Electric, and difficulties with the wings and software.

If the test flights go well, Boeing will officially file for approval of from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). As Boeing faces the crisis over its top-selling 737 MAX, following two deadly crashes, the 777X is supposed to compete in the market for long-haul aircraft with the A350 made by rival European aircraft manu-

facturer Airbus. The 777X, which can carry 384 to 426 passengers, has orders for 340, mainly from seven major airlines, including Emirates, Lufthansa, Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines and Qatar Airways. The first deliveries of the new model are not expected before early 2021, instead of mid-2020 as initially planned, because the period of test flights should be extended and the approval procedure deepened.

This aircraft encountered significant problems during pressurization tests in September.

Boeing's position in this segment has been weakened the lack of firm orders from China for its 787 "Dreamliner," which is expected to see production cuts.—AFP ■



Emperor Naruhito (C), Empress Masako (L) and their daughter Princess Aiko (R) are pictured at the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Emperor, empress watch sumo live for 1st time after enthronement

TOKYO — Emperor Naruhito, Empress Masako and their daughter Princess Aiko, known to be an avid sumo fan since preschool age, watched live matches of Japan's ancient wrestling sport on Saturday, the first time since he ascended the throne last May.

The emperor and empress watched the final nine bouts at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan on the penultimate day of the 15-day New Year Grand Sumo Tournament. The last time the couple went to sumo matches was 2017 when they were crown prince and crown princess.

Seated in the venue's VIP booth on the second floor, the imperial family enthusiastically applauded the wrestlers while being briefed by Hakkaku, chairman of the Japan Sumo Association, the tournament organizer. They received loud applause from spectators as they left the packed venue, waving their hands.

It was the third time to watch live sumo matches, and

the first in 13 years, for the 18-year-old princess.

According to Hakkaku, the princess questioned him about the height of the dohyo, or raised ring with a sandy surface where wrestlers compete, while Emperor Naruhito said there were many good bouts.

Princess Aiko's experience of watching sumo live dates back to September 2006 and September 2007. As proof of her strong interest in sumo wrestling, she was marking win-loss records and had memorized the fighting names and the places of birth of some wrestlers at the time, according to the Imperial Household Agency.

Emperor Naruhito had said the princess displayed her "sumo skills" when playing with her parents or attendants.

Former Emperor Akihito and former Empress Michiko visited the Ryogoku Kokugikan almost every year, including last year's New Year Grand Sumo Tournament.—Kyodo News ■

5,000 attend ceremony for Japanese doctor killed in Afghanistan

FUKUOKA — A farewell ceremony for Japanese doctor Tetsu Nakamura, who was killed in Afghanistan in December, was held Saturday attended by about 5,000 people paying respect for his longtime contribution to development of the central Asian

country.

"Our family wishes green to spread throughout Afghanistan, as my father hoped," Ken Nakamura, his 36-year-old son, said at the ceremony at Seinan Gakuin University's chapel in Fukuoka.

The 73-year-old doctor, head

of the Afghan unit of the Peshawar-kai aid group based in the southwestern Japan city, and five Afghans were killed as armed men attacked their vehicle in Jalalabad in the eastern province of Nangarhar on Dec. 4.

Nakamura had been provid-

ing medical assistance near the Afghan border with Pakistan for years. He was also involved in tree-planting activities and a project to improve the water supply in poverty-stricken areas after a drought hit Afghanistan in 2000.

The attendees of the cere-

mony included Afghan Ambassador to Japan Bashir Mohabbat, who termed Nakamura a "permanent hero."

Photographs of Nakamura and the five Afghans were displayed on the altar during the ceremony.—Kyodo News ■

Following quality control guidelines is serving the people with safe buildings

WITH developer companies and projects being awarded Certificates of Appreciation for their High-Rise Projects yesterday, we hope that Myanmar, in the future, would see more buildings being built, based upon international safety standards.

When it comes to construction of high rise and large building projects with occupancy of over 500, the construction must follow the guidelines and Code of Practice of the supervisory committee for high rise buildings and projects, known as HPBC.

To provide the people with high quality and safe facilities, all stakeholders of the construction sector, which is underpinning the country's economic sector, are obliged to carry out their responsibilities and tasks, in accordance with ethical guidelines.

At the same time, the HPBC is also required to upgrade its modern inspection system and make necessary preparations for providing inspection services to high rise and construction projects.

Since its formation last year with 33 members, after restructuring the Committee for Quality Control of High-Rise Building Projects-CQHP formed in 2003, HPBC has stepped up its efforts with new reforms in the construction sector.

Within four to five months after its formation, the HPBC carried out assessment tasks and relaxed some procedures, working closely with developer companies and the Yangon City Development Committee, and upgraded the capacity of its staff.

These efforts, in four to five months, could deliver fruitful results in improved management, and aims at enforcing rules to ensure construction is in line with urban planning standards.

To avoid dangerous or problematic situations, buildings must follow their original proposed designs. Failure to follow updated urban planning standards could cause harm to the city and its residents, as well. We understand that developers were hurt, to some extent, by the review. Every step taken by the committee was very careful and serious, since losses for developers are the country's losses. For developers are also our nationals.

However, no man is above the law. Guidelines for Quality control of the High-Rise Building Projects must be observed by all developers, project supervisors and engineers.

By Lokethar

Someone pointed out some time ago, that Myanmar's societal relations have largely been "obligations based". As I understand it, Myanmar's culture has its roots in the Buddhist religion which teaches love and compassion towards all beings. As such the social norms of relationship developed by the Monks of the Buddhist order and the learned figures in Myanmar's history evolved around the concept of "obligations" of the members of society towards one another. The "obligations" of parents, children, husbands, wives, students, teachers and so on have been "codified", so to speak, into "five general obligations" of each. It has been a "short and sweet" way of reminding members of the society of their "obligations".

As for example, the "obligations" of parents towards their children include to "Steer them away from evil", "Show them the way to goodness", "Enable them to acquire learning", "Start them on a livelihood", "Find suitable life partners for them". From the point of view of the children, these basically are what they "deserve" and look up to the parents for. The situation is alike in most other social relationships. As such it is accepted that society should function in a civilized manner by the members voluntarily observing their "obligations". It's perhaps the Myanmar way to peace and tranquillity within the community and the country as a whole.



YCDC workers cleaning garbage systematically in front of the buildings. PHOTO: PHE ZAW

However in 1948, the year Myanmar regained her independence, the concept of "Human Rights" came to be enshrined in the "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" proclaimed by the United Nations on 10th of December 1948 at its Conference held in Paris, the capital of France. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood". The UDHR, in Article 2 mentions that "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedom set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, birth or other status". Subsequent articles describe the various Human Rights.

Myanmar being a Member State of the UN, is under obligation to recognize and uphold the Universal Declaration of Human

Upholding "Human Rights" is not only the obligation of the Government or the Human Rights Bodies vis-à-vis the people residing in the country. It also is the obligation of the residents and citizens themselves towards each other.

Rights. In Myanmar, the Union Constitution and the relevant Laws have provisions regarding the Rights and Duties of Myanmar citizens which are in accord with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Upholding "Human Rights" is not only the obligation of the Government or the Human Rights Bodies vis-à-vis the people residing in the country. It also is the obligation of the residents and citizens themselves towards each other. Rule of Law is the principal factor in upholding of Human Rights.

A close look at the contemporary scene, it seems that some people are bent on asserting their "rights" (sometimes not even being aware of its legality) but are not too concerned about the "rights" of others thus leading to undesirable outcomes. Leaving aside for the moment the more serious violations of Human Rights, and focusing on the very "minor" infringements of the rights of the

people, one could point to instances such as making loud noises in a residential apartment without consideration of the consequences to the other tenants; placing "obstacles" in front of ground floor apartments to prevent some one parking their car; dumping "waste" into the public drainage system; parking cars in front of street shops to buy or eat food oblivious of obstructing the traffic flow; parking their cars on or besides the pavement where no parking is allowed; setting up food and other stalls where it will obstruct public circulation and so on need to be tackled first. This trend has to be checked through making people more aware of "Human Rights" in all its aspects no matter how trivial and enforcing laws and rules related to Human Rights. Weakness in enforcing these laws and rules will only embolden the rulebreakers to make further infringements of Human Rights.

Hence for the benefit of progressing towards a more "rights-based", society the "Rule of Law" has to prevail. But that does not mean abandoning the traditional "obligations" approach which is embedded in the hearts and minds of the people since ancient times. It means "blending" of both "rights" approach with the "obligations" based culture for moving towards a more law-abiding and caring society.

With Charity to all and Malice towards none.

■ ■ ■

2020, 73rd Anniversary Union Day National Objectives

1. All ethnic nationals to preserve and protect for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of National Unity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty.
2. To work on the peace process till success is achieved based on Union spirit.
3. To strive with the collective strength of all ethnic nationals for rule of law, a fair justice system and the security and safety of all citizens.
4. To prevent/protect all people from the danger of narcotic drugs as a national duty and thereby uplift their standard of living.
5. Emergence of a Constitution which will be in alignment with a genuine Democratic Federal Union.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 25th January, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 26th January, 2020: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, 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 (5-7) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast and about (4-6) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th January, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th January, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th January, 2020: Generally fair weather.

THE PROGRESS IN RAKHINE STATE

Meetings

◆ The Sixth Senior Officers Meeting of the Myanmar-Bangladesh Bilateral Border Guard Forces was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 6 to 10 April 2019.

◆ Bangladesh sent Myanmar a diplomatic note regarding the construction of concrete fence posts near the Myanmar-Bangladesh border, to which Myanmar responded to the Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon on 28 January 2019 that the construction was outside the 150-foot no-construction zone and that the purpose of the fence was to undertake border security and prevent illegal border crossings and security lapses.



Visit to Maungdaw of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Party

◆ Myanmar also sent its strong objection to the Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon on 11 March 2019 against the allegations made by Bangladesh relating to the terrorist shootings from within Bangladesh territory in the vicinity of Myanmar-Bangladesh Border Post No. 41 against a police outpost on the Myanmar side.

◆ On the visit to Rakhine State by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and party from 20 to 24 May 2019, arrangements were made to enable the delegation to visit IDP camps and villages in Maungdaw and Buthitaung.

Border Trade between Myanmar-Bangladesh

Trade Centre	29 Dec 2017 to 9 Aug 2018	29 Dec 2018 to 9 Aug 2019
Sittwe Trade Centre	USD 59.284 million	USD 7.063 million
Maungdaw Trade Centre	USD 9.791 million	USD 6.062 million

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China deploys army medics to overwhelmed virus epicentre

WUHAN (China) — The central Chinese city at the epicentre of a SARS-like virus outbreak is building a second new hospital within weeks to treat cases, as angry patients faced hours-long waits at medical facilities overwhelmed with patients of a disease that has killed 41 and infected nearly 1,300.

The Chinese army has deployed medical specialists to help with treatment in the city of Wuhan, where a seafood and live animal market has been identified as the centre of the outbreak.

But people waiting at one hospital in the city were angry and frustrated.

“It takes at least five hours to see a doctor,” one woman, who didn’t want to be named, told AFP. “Nurses are brave but management is really messy.”

Wuhan authorities will race to build a second new hospital within a fortnight, state media reported, adding 1,300 new beds.

They have already begun building a new field hospital to deal with the outbreak, which state media said could be ready in just over a week.

On Saturday, when they should have been celebrating, citizens of Wuhan stood in line at a pharmacy to buy masks from employees in full-body protective suits and surgical gloves.

The country’s most important celebration has been all but

cancelled for at least 56 million people as authorities expanded travel bans across central Hubei province to try and contain the spread of the virus.

On the eastern outskirts of Wuhan, police manning a road-block turned away a handful of vehicles trying to exit the city.

“Nobody can leave,” an officer told AFP.

But the police allowed some medical workers who had gone home for the holidays to re-enter the city to help at overwhelmed hospitals.

“They need us to go there, otherwise they will be too exhausted,” said one of the women, pulling a suitcase.

But the respiratory contagion continues to spread.

The nationwide death toll has jumped to 41, the government said Saturday, after 15 more people died in Wuhan.

Confirmed infections also surged to 1,287, up from 830 reported 24 hours earlier. The government says most of the cases have been in Hubei and most of the deaths involved people who already suffered pre-existing health conditions.

In a dramatic escalation of the central government’s involvement, China deployed 450 military medical staff to Wuhan, state media said.

The medics, who arrived on military aircraft late Friday, include doctors with experience combating SARS or Ebola and will be dispatched to hospitals



Chinese health authorities said the nationwide toll had jumped to 41 after 15 more people had died the day before in Wuhan, where the virus emerged. **PHOTO: AFP**

that are reportedly short on beds due to a crush of infected patients and worried locals.

The National Health Commission also ordered nationwide measures to detect people carrying the virus on planes, trains and buses across the country.

Protect yourself

“Everyone is just trying to protect themselves,” said a man in a surgical mask at a Wuhan pharmacy where customers were stocking up on masks, gloves and disinfectant.

But the man, who declined

to give his name, expressed confidence in Chinese authorities.

“The government is handling this. It’s not a problem.”

The virus has caused global concern because of its similarity to SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), which killed hundreds across mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002-2003 and spread to a number of other countries.

It has now infected people nationwide and in nearly a dozen other countries, with France saying three cases were confirmed there — the first known European infections.

Beijing’s Forbidden City, Shanghai Disneyland, and a section of the Great Wall are among many attractions that have closed as a precaution and state media said China’s box-office earnings for Lunar New Year’s Eve on Friday were just one-tenth of last year as people shunned crowds.

“Usually we celebrate as a family. Now, because of the virus I’m not even visiting my parents,” said Wang Fang, a 49-year-old Wuhan native.

“It’ll be great just to be able to make it through (the outbreak).” —AFP ■

40 international companies interested to invest in Karnataka: CM

BENGALURU (India) — Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Saturday said that his visit to the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos was a success and 40 international companies are interested in investing in the state.

“The visit proved to be a fruitful one. Over 40 international companies are interested in investing in Karnataka. The UAE also showed its interest

in Karnataka,” said the Chief Minister at a press conference. Yediyurappa had attended the WEF’s ‘Strategic Outlook: India’ session on Thursday, which was addressed by Union Minister Piyush Goyal.

The Chief Minister said the states have to gear up for high economic activities to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of USD five trillion economy a reality. — ANI ■

China central bank eases rules to facilitate large-scale fund transfers

BEIJING — China’s central bank on Saturday decided to remove the upper limit on small bank batch payments to meet transfer demands of larger scales.

The People’s Bank of China said in an online statement that the new policy will be effective from Jan. 25 to Jan. 30 to ensure efficient and timely transfer of large-scale funds.

The move came a day after the central bank’s statement on Friday to raise the limit to 500 million yuan (about 72.4 million U.S. dollars) to support the fight against the pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus.

The removal of the limit is aimed at further enhancing transfer efficiency, the central bank said.



File photo taken on 13 March 2018 shows the headquarters of the People’s Bank of China in Beijing, capital of China. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Chinese health authorities announced Saturday that 1,287 confirmed cases of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), including 237 in critical conditions, had been reported in the country by the

end of Friday.

The country is mobilizing medical resources nationwide to aid central China’s Wuhan, the center of the 2019-nCoV outbreak, to control the epidemic. — Xinhua ■

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Powerful quake kills 21 in eastern Turkey

ELAZIG (Turkey) — A powerful earthquake has killed at least 21 people and injured more than 1,000 in eastern Turkey, as rescue teams searched through the rubble of collapsed buildings for survivors on Saturday.

The Turkish government's disaster and emergency management agency (AFAD) said in a series of tweets early on Saturday that five people were pulled alive from the rubble in the eastern province of Elazig.

State news agency Anadolu said among those found alive was a pregnant woman who was rescued 12 hours after the quake hit.

At least 30 people were missing following the magnitude 6.8 quake on Friday night, which had its epicentre in the small lakeside town of Sivrice in Elazig.

"It was very scary, furniture fell on top of us. We rushed outside," 47-year-old Melahat Can, who lives in the provincial capital of Elazig, told AFP.

Eray Ernek described how he was watching television when the quake took place. "I was on the sofa and then fell on the floor. My sleeping father was woken up.

"After we found a way out, we broke the door and got out. We saw other houses had collapsed."



The epicentre was in the small lakeside town of Sivrice in the eastern province of Elazig. **PHOTO: AFP**

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said all steps were being taken to aid people affected by the quake, which caused widespread fear.

"We stand by our people," Erdogan said on Twitter.

AFAD said the quake hit Sivrice at around 8.55 pm (1755 GMT). Turkey lies on major faultlines and is prone to frequent earthquakes.

Turkish television showed images of people rushing outside in panic, as well as a fire on the roof of a building.

Interior, environment and health ministers, who were in the quake zone, said the casualties were in Elazig province and in the neighbouring province of Malatya, which lies to

the southwest.

At least 21 people died including 17 in Elazig and four in Malatya and 1,030 others were injured, according to AFAD.

Among those injured were residents in the southeastern provinces of Diyarbakir, Batman, Sanliurfa, Adiyaman and Kahramanmaras, it added.

Rescue teams were searching for survivors trapped in a five-storey collapsed building in a village some 30 kilometres from Elazig, according to AFP journalists at the scene. One person was pulled alive from the rubble.

Sports centres, schools and guest houses had been opened to accommodate quake victims in Malatya. — AFP ■

Mexican children take up arms in fight against drug gangs

AYAHUALTEMPA (Mexico) — With baseball caps and scarves covering their faces, only their serious eyes are visible as a dozen children stand to attention, rifles by their side.

In the heart of the violence-plagued Mexican state of Guerrero, learning to use weapons starts at an early age.

In the village of Ayahualtempa, at the foot of a wooded hill, the basketball court serves as a training ground for these youths, aged between five and 15.

The children practice with rifles and handguns or make-shift weapons in various drill positions for a few hours every week.

"Position three!" yells instructor Bernardino Sanchez, a member of the militia responsible for the security of 16 villages in the Guerrero area, which goes by the name of Regional Coordinator of Community Authorities (CRAC-PF).

Guerrero is one of the poorest and most violent parts of Mexico, with one of the country's highest murder rates because of drug gang wars over the trade in opium and marijuana.

Battle against cartels

In the face of indifference from the authorities, 600 people voluntarily joined the militia force to fight organized crime. They included children. — AFP



Guerrero is one of the poorest and most violent parts of Mexico, with one of the country's highest murder rates because of drug gang wars. **PHOTO: AFP**

Democrats wrap up case against 'imminent threat' Trump, his team up next

WASHINGTON (United States) — Donald Trump's lawyers prepared to deliver his first full-throated defense Saturday in the Senate's historic impeachment trial, after Democratic prosecutors spent three days making their case for the US president's removal from office.

Capping 24 total hours of arguments, Democrats told the 100 senators that Trump abused the power of the presidency in pressuring Ukraine to launch investigations that would help him politically, and then sought to block efforts by Congress to investigate.

Democrats said they had met that burden of proof, as lead House impeachment manager Adam Schiff warned that Trump would remain an "imminent threat" to American democracy if he stays in power.

"This is Trump first, not

America first," congressman Schiff told the chamber.

"I ask you, I implore you," he added, addressing Republicans who hold the power to allow witnesses to testify, against Trump's wishes.

"Give America a fair trial," Schiff said. "She's worth it."

Trump has signalled he remains in tight control of his party, with many Senate Republicans expressing public support for the president despite a vigorous, comprehensive case outlining his misconduct.

"I don't believe anything they've said so far is impeachable," Senator Rick Scott told reporters.

"I'm looking forward to the White House tomorrow starting to set the record straight, because this has just been partisan."

Trump's team begin their



House Managers Adam Schiff (C) and Jerry Nadler (R) speak to reporters on the fourth day of the Senate impeachment trial on 24 January. **PHOTO: AFP**

defense at 10:00 am (1500 GMT) Saturday, a timeslot which Trump, a former reality television star, referred to in a tweet as "Death Valley in T.V."

His side's arguments will continue Monday and Tuesday, before the chamber turns to questioning and then votes on

whether to hear from witnesses, something Democrats have sought from the start.

Trump's defense will be "much more concise" and "easier to understand" than the prosecution arguments, Republican Senator Mike Braun told Fox News.

Democrats argued that Trump's refusal to allow top officials to testify and to supply subpoenaed documents to the Ukraine investigation supported the second charge against him, obstruction of Congress.

Trump blocked the executive branch from responding to 71 specific requests for documents, including five subpoenas, related to his pressure on Kiev to help his 2020 reelection effort, Democratic impeachment manager Val Demings told senators.

Trump also prevented 12 current and former administration officials, most of them subpoenaed, from testifying to the investigation, she said.

"President Trump's obstruction of the impeachment inquiry was categorical, indiscriminate and historically unprecedented," Demings said. — AFP ■

Trump, Johnson talk telecoms security ahead of Huawei decision

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Prime Minister Boris Johnson discussed telecoms security with US President Donald Trump as he prepares to announce if Britain will use China’s Huawei in its 5G networks, officials said Saturday.

In a phone call on Friday evening, the two leaders “discussed a range of issues, including cooperation to ensure the security of our telecommunications networks”, a Downing Street spokeswoman said.

A White House statement also confirmed they discussed “working



In this file photo taken on 29 April 2019 A pedestrian walks past a Huawei product stand at an EE telecommunications shop in central London on 29 April 2019. PHOTO: AFP

together to ensure the security of our telecommunications networks”.

The United States has banned Huawei from the rollout of its

next generation 5G mobile networks because of concerns — strongly

denied — that the firm could be under the control of Beijing.

Washington has been lobbying London to do the same, but there is speculation that it will grant the firm some kind of limited access.

Huawei is already well established in British 3G and 4G networks, and officials have warned that banning it would be hugely costly and delay the rollout of 5G technology.

Intelligence agencies also believe that they can contain any potential risk, although Johnson will have to make the final decision,

expected next week.

In his call with Trump, the prime minister also raised the “need to secure justice” for the family of Harry Dunn, Downing Street said.

The British teenager died in August when his motorbike was hit by a car being driven by Anne Sacoolas, the wife of a US diplomat. British authorities have charged Sacoolas with causing death by dangerous driving, but the US refuses to extradite her.

Johnson “reiterated the need for the individual involved to return to the UK”, the spokeswoman said. — AFP ■

“Jumping genes” help stabilize DNA folding patterns: study

CHICAGO — A study at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis indicates that “jumping genes” – bits of DNA that can move from one spot in the genome to another and are well-known for increasing genetic diversity over the long course of evolution – play another and more surprising role of stabilizing the 3D folding patterns of the DNA molecule inside the cell’s nucleus.

The study was published Friday in the journal Genome Biology.

Studying DNA folding in mouse and human blood cells, the researchers found that in many regions where the folding patterns of DNA are conserved through evolution, the genetic sequence of the DNA letters establishing these folds is not. It is ever so slightly displaced. But this changing sequence, a genetic turnover, does not cause problems. Because the structure largely stays the same, the function presumably does, too, so nothing of importance changes.

Jumping genes are

also called transposable elements.

“We were surprised to find that some young transposable elements serve to maintain old structures,” said the study’s first author Mayank N.K. Choudhary, a doctoral student at the university. “The specific sequence may be different, but the function stays the same. And we see that this has happened multiple times over the past 80 million years, when the common ancestors of mice and humans first diverged from one another.”— Xinhua ■

Survivors, dignitaries to mark Auschwitz liberation 75 years on

WARSAW (Poland) — Elderly Holocaust survivors will gather in Auschwitz on Monday, some for the last time, to mark 75 years since Soviet troops liberated the death camp where Nazi Germany killed more than 1.1 million people, most of them Jews.

Bitter political feuds loom over the memorial ceremony at the site of the former camp in Oswiecim, southern Poland, that will be attended by royals, presidents and prime ministers from nearly 60 countries, but no top world leaders.

Israel held a high-profile Holocaust forum marking the liberation anniversary in Jerusalem on Thursday, seen as rivalling the event in Poland.

While senior figures such as US Vice President Mike Pence, French President Emmanuel Macron and Russian President Vladimir Putin were in Jerusalem, none will come to Auschwitz. Last month, Putin sparked outrage in the West after making the false claim that Poland had colluded with Nazi German dictator Adolf Hitler and contributed to the outbreak of World War II.

In fact, the war erupted after Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union invaded and carved up Poland in September 1939 under a secret clause of their Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

Poland’s President Andrzej Duda, who has called out Putin for attempting to rewrite history, snubbed the forum in Jerusalem after he was denied the opportunity to speak there. He will make an address on Monday in Auschwitz where survivors are to hold centre-stage at ceremonies honouring the six million European Jews killed in the Holocaust.



Auschwitz-Birkenau was the largest of Nazi Germany’s death and concentration camps and the one where most people were killed. PHOTO: AFP

tember 1939 under a secret clause of their Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

Poland’s President Andrzej Duda, who has called out Putin for attempting to rewrite history, snubbed the forum in Jerusalem after he was denied the opportunity to speak there. He will make an address on Monday in Auschwitz where survivors are to hold centre-stage at ceremonies honouring the six million European Jews killed in the Holocaust.

Allies knew in 1942

For some, nightmarish memories of the camp are still vivid, more than seven decades on.

German soldiers “only had to point one finger at you to send you to the gas chambers”, says Auschwitz survivor Bronislawa

Horowitz-Karakulska, 88, a Polish-Jew who was imprisoned there as a 12-year-old with her mother.

“Whoever looked weak, skinny, bony, was selected for death,” said Horowitz-Karakulska, who survived after her mother bribed guards with a diamond she had smuggled into the camp.

“It was full of German soldiers, barking dogs — German shepherds — commotion, fear, screams, Auschwitz was one big horror,” she told Polish media.

While the world only learned the full extent of the horrors after the Soviet Red Army entered the camp on January 27, 1945, the Allies had detailed information about Nazi Germany’s genocide against Jews much earlier.— AFP ■

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Japan keen to attract US tourists ahead of Tokyo Olympics

NEW YORK — Japanese travel agencies and local governments gathered at the New York Times Travel Show on Friday in the hope of drawing more American tourists to the country ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.

However, the rapid spread of a new coronavirus believed to have originated from the central Chinese city of Wuhan is a major worry, with some expressing concern that the illness could discourage travelers to Asia.

Kanagawa Prefecture and its prefectural capital Yokohama was one of the exhibitors participating in the annual show for the first time. The port city near Tokyo hopes to attract tourists before and during the Olympics as some of the sporting events such as soccer and baseball will take place there.

“America, is proba-

bly the next China, it’s a huge market for Japan,” said Toshikazu Yazawa, a representative of the Japan National Tourism Organization in charge of the city.

Yokohama will provide two locations for non-ticket holders to watch the Olympic competitions live.

Nagano Prefecture was another exhibitor to promote its region to U.S. tourists. The central Japan prefecture, which hosted the 1998 Winter Olympics, is known for its snow resorts and monkeys that bathe in the hot springs.

“Last year, we had 40,000 American tourists,” Yu Yamagishi, JNTO director in charge of Nagano Prefecture said. “Most of them were visiting the snow monkeys and skiing. So we are promoting the winter season.” — Kyodo News ■



Japan’s booth at the New York Times Travel Show. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Global stocks mixed as Chinese virus spreads, oil prices drop

NEW YORK (United States) — European stocks rallied Friday while Wall Street equities tumbled along with oil prices as markets weighed the potential impact of a spreading viral illness in China.

Chinese authorities expanded a massive quarantine effort in response to coronavirus, while the United States confirmed its second case of the SARS-like ailment.

French officials said there had also been two cases found in France, the first in Europe, while Nepal reported South Asia’s first case. European bourses, which had dropped on Thursday, finished solidly higher Friday in the first session since the World Health Organization stopped short of declaring a public health emergency.

“There’s a hope that the coronavirus is contained, particularly in China,” Interactive Investor analyst Richard Hunter told AFP. “And that’s something of a relief rally — (and) also with the earning season so far so good. “So the last few days provided an opportunity to investors to buy on the cheaper side,” Hunter added.

US stocks had also opened higher but fell steadily as the session pro-

gressed. Adam Sarhan of 50 Park Investments said the virus still appeared to be contained but “if we start getting more cases showing up around the world, that would be a bad sign for global economic growth.”

Sarhan said Friday’s losses also reflected profit taking following a run of Wall Street records in recent weeks. Tourism-oriented stocks were under pressure amid fears of the virus. United Airlines sank 3.5 per cent, Marriott International lost 2.7 per cent and Wynn Resorts fell 3.1 percent.

Oil prices also finished solidly lower as traders gird for a potential hit to petroleum demand from China and perhaps other markets. The outbreak has led to the cancelation of Lunar New Year festivities, along with temporary closures of Beijing’s Forbidden City, Shanghai’s Disneyland and a section of the Great Wall.

“With China implementing travel restrictions on more than 30 million residents at a time of peak holiday travel, demand for refined products from the transportation sector is likely to drop well below its usual holiday peaks,” said Robbie Fraser, commodity analyst at Schneider Electric. — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1036 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1036 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Ambulance (Total – 70 Nos) for Hospital in the (2019-2020) Budget year.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supply Division, Department of Medical Services, Office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (27.1.2020).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (26.2.2020), 12:00 Noon, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411634, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Department of Medical Services
Ministry of Health and Sports

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (056 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (056 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

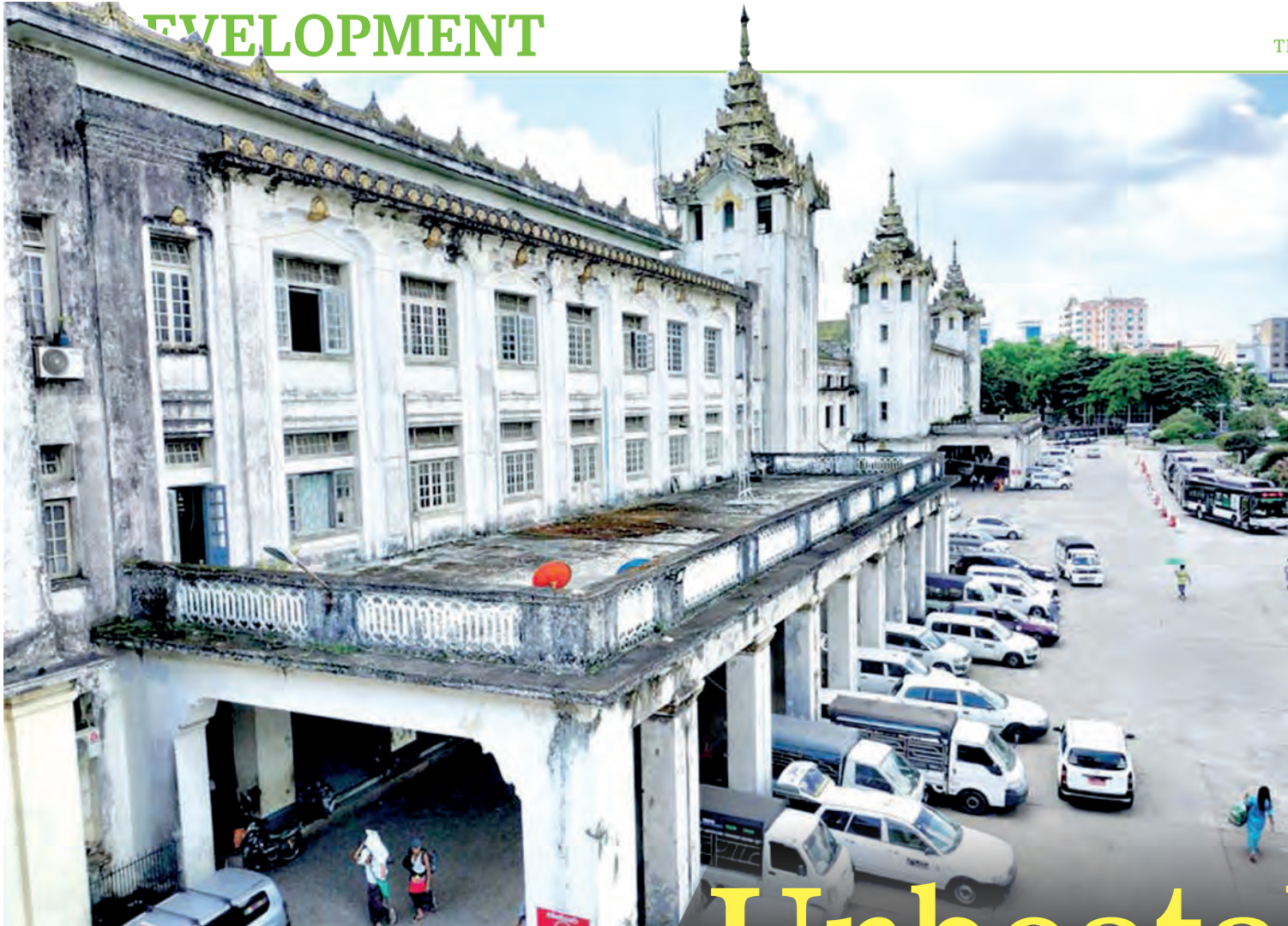
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Yangon Central Railway Station.

By Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)
PHOTO: KO GYI TIN

Unbeatable beauty

the bronze statues of a youthful boy and girl celebrating traditional Myanmar Thingyan in the present modern day outfits. The statues were erected in a small park in front of the station.

The two statues were of a boy pouring water out of a bowl onto a girl and the poses were alive and realistic.

Display of an outstanding bronze casting

Even though it was a bronze casting, the dresses of the boy and girl were realistic as though real wet dresses were being worn. It shows the high standard and quality of the bronze casting.

A commemorative plaque attached to the platform underneath the statue said the bronze casting was by Sayagyi U Han Tin. Even though Sayagyi had already passed away, his hand-



Bronze statue of youthful boy and girl celebrating Myanmar traditional water festival.

THE first Yangon Central Railway Station in downtown was not the one you see standing nowadays. It was situated south of the present one near Pansodan Street.

According to records, it was only in 1911 that the second Yangon Central Railway station was moved to its current position.

During the Second World War, it was bombed frequently and these bombings destroyed the entire western part of the station according to an article written in the Myanmar Railways centennial magazine.

Drawing a new design for a new railway station

At that time, headquarters of the railways was in Simla, India. Headquarters asked engineer U Hla Thwin in Yangon to submit a new design drawing of the new railway station and the design was approved on 7 May 1946.

Expert on Myanmar architecture Sithu U Tin was assigned to include Myanmar traditional architectural design.

Sayagyi Sithu U Tin also made an all-out effort in producing Myanmar's traditional architectural styles and designs. English engineers were said to have commended the Myanmar traditional five tier roof style top-

ping the four stairwells.

The construction of the new railway station began a year before the country's independence in 1947, completed in 1954 and opened on 5 June.

Majestic and striking

The railway station consisted of three main buildings and was majestic and striking. As it was now only 65 years old, it will remain strong and sturdy for many more years to come.

The majestic beauty of Yangon central railway station with its Myanmar architectural designs was enhanced further by

work or art work remain alive and prominently featured.

Work on the bronze statues were started on 1 September 1989 and completed in 28 February 1990. The statues were unveiled on 4 March 1990 said the plaque. The plaque further stated that a total of 1,555.56 viss of bronze was used to produce the statues.

The railway station depicts Myanmar's culture and arts while the bronze Thingyan couple depicts another traditional cultural heritage of Myanmar. It is our duty and responsibility to maintain this traditional culture, arts and heritages.



An artist's impression of the Yangon Railway Station Yard. Photo: Oxley

News had emerged of upgrading the Yangon Central Railway Station. Officials from Myanmar Railway had also made official announcements about it.

Japan's Sumitomo was learnt to have took over the responsibility to implement the upgrade work after the tender winning company withdrew for various reasons.

Contract signing

Initially Oxley Holding company, a joint venture between China's Sino Great Wall company and Myanmar's Min Dhama company was to sign a contract with Myanma Railways in 2020 and to complete the construction within 8 years. "Although a new partner was coming in to replace an outgoing partner the project design remains the same," said Myanma Railways Managing Director U Ba Myint.

The project covers an area of 63.5 acres and a floor area of 1.19 square metre will be constructed. The construction area will be bordered by Bogyoke Aung San Street to the south, Bo Min Yaung street to the north, Sule Pagoda road to the west and Theinbyu street on the east.

The construction will include offices, hotels and condominiums with the new train station in the middle. The new train station will be right beside the old or the present station. Once the construction was completed Myanma Railways is expected to generate a monthly income of US\$ 4 million from the project.

As foreign companies play a lead role in designing and constructing it, the new station will be a world class modern beauty. Yet I wonder whether the new station will be able to compete with the Myanmar designed old station with Myanmar architecture styles. - Translated by Handytips



Newly-emerged Mindhamma Garden City Housing Project

By Zin Lin Myint; PHOTOS: K ZIN

DWELLERS in Yangon City have greater chances for choosing apartments for living many housing projects are under implementation. Number of purchasing housing apartments is down because local people adjust incomes and their desire to buy apartments. Nonetheless, those facing accommodation difficulties have brighter future to own the accommodation. To fill their needs, Mindhamma Garden City Housing Project recently emerged as a new one in Yangon City.

The housing project located at the corner of Mindhamma Road and Parami Road in Hline Township commenced in November 2016. The Ministry of Education and Myanmar Imperial Vega Company joined hands in building the housings. Some of these housings were inaugurated on 26 December 2019.

Especially, a plan is underway to allow faculty members of universities under the Ministry of Education to reside at the apartments from the project. It aims to provide convenient accommodation to the faculty members discharging duties in Yangon Region.

So far, Mindhamma Pyinnya Yeiktha housing for faculty members, Hline Pyinnya Yeiktha staff housing and new science equipment factory have been completed in the project. These housings include apartments for educational staff.

Mindhamma Pyinnya Yeiktha housing was formed with 788 apartments each of which has 1,200 square feet of area and 112 apartments with 800 square feet of area each. The Yeiktha comprises nine 12-storey buildings and two eight-storey buildings with 900 apartments. Moreover, the Yeiktha consists of a car park, a swimming pool and gymnasium, a community centre and two market buildings.

High living standard

This is why faculty members and educational staff will have chances to enjoy high living standard in residing at Mindhamma Pyinnya Yeiktha. Neat and tidy streets, high-rise buildings, shopping centre and transport facilities will create a

good social environment for the educational staff.

Especially, the residences will have chances to systematically station their automobiles at the car park building. They do not need to station their vehicles on the roads at night. Those residences will have to park their private cars and office vehicles conveniently at the designated place by paying set fees for parking. As high-rise

ings with 520 apartments. So far, three eight-storey buildings have been built with 184 apartments. The remaining buildings are under construction.

Moreover, one four-storey community centre and one three-storey science equipment factory including a basement have been put into service at Hline Pyinnya Yeiktha staff housing. The government allotted apartments to teachers

is why relevant government departments and the construction company need to work in concert for ensuring timely completion of the buildings.

In fact, the Ministry of Education gave an order of implementing the project to the Ministry of Construction which will be project supervisor in mutual cooperation with the construction company. Upon completion, the project will produce some



Mindhamma Garden City Housing Project in Hlaing Township, Yangon.

buildings in Yangon City are facing difficulties of car parks as a challenge, the project covered construction of the car parks at its buildings for solving the car park problems of owners so as to ease traffic congestion and traffic accidents.

Formation of 520 apartments

Hline Pyinnya Yeiktha staff housing included in Mindhamma Garden City Housing Project comprises 520 apartments in three types with 1,800 square feet area, 900 square feet area and 600 square feet area each.

In so doing, the project must be implemented to construct seven eight-storey build-

at the staff housing so as to live there conveniently while dutifully carrying out their assigned tasks.

Parami Pyinnya Yeiktha (1) is included in Mindhamma Garden City Housing Project. So far, one five-storey two-unit building with 10 apartments and two two-storey buildings for opening the training school were inaugurated at Parami Pyinnya Yeiktha (1) on 26 December 2019. Each apartment of the building has 3,600 square feet of area.

Strenuous efforts are being made to complete construction of remaining four eight-storey buildings and eleven 12-storey buildings to have 1,280 apartments in 2020 and 2021. That

2,400 advanced apartments for facilitating educational staff members who face difficulties of accommodation.

Mushrooming housing projects

Implementation of new satellite town projects, garden city projects, special industrial zone and low-cost, affordable-cost and fair-cost housing projects are mushrooming here and there in Yangon City in order to benefit the city dwellers. Among them, Mindhamma Garden City Housing Project is also one of the new images in improvement of Yangon City.

Translated by Than Tun Aung



Myanmar lose 1-2 to Thai at Int'l Women's friendly match

THE Myanmar national women's team suffered a 1-2 loss to the Thailand women's team during an International Women's Friendly match played at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay yesterday.

The match was a team Myanmar preparation for the third round of the women's Olympic Qualifiers, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Both teams made many substitutions from the start, as the match was a friendly type.

In fact, team Myanmar dominated over Thailand throughout the match, but Myanmar players did not use nearly all the chances to score, and the Thai team relied on an attack back style, taking advantage of most of their scoring opportunities.



Myanmar's Win Theingi Tun (No 7) carries the ball during yesterday's friendly match with Thailand at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MFF**

The leading goal for the Thai team was scored at 16 minutes, and the second goal

at 21 minutes.

The two goals upset some Myanmar players, as they

missed many of their chances for goals when they attacked. The first half ended with

a 2-0 lead by team Thailand.

The second half saw defense style play by the Thai team, while Myanmar continued with a striking style.

The match saw no goals till 80 minutes, as Myanmar veteran winger Khin Moe Wai's kicks hit the goal bar twice.

The lone goal for Myanmar was scored by substitute player Win Theingi Tun at 85 minutes.

Team Myanmar received a penalty kick just before the match ended, but the kick by Win Theingi Tun was blocked by the Thai keeper, ending the scoring with a 1-2 loss to Thai team in the friendly match.

Next, Myanmar will play a second friendly match with the Thai team on 28 January.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

MNL giants' match: Yangon to play Yadanarbon today

Two former champions of the Myanmar National League, Yangon United and Yadanarbon United, will compete today at 3:30 pm at the Yangon United Sports Complex.

Striker of Yangon United Than Paing, who showed brilliant skills during the recent AFC Cup 2020 play-off first leg against Brunei's Indera Foot-

ball Club, said Yangon United had prepared well to ensure a win against Yadanarbon United.

"We know very well the playing style of Yadanarbon FC and we prepared our best. Likewise, team Yadanarbon will play their best," he said.

Than Paing noted that he is trying to play better with his team and has more confidence

on the pitch.

Yangon United had a win and a loss during the two team's meetings in the 2019 Myanmar National League play.

The match between Yangon and Yadanarbon will be broadcast live on MRTV and streamed live on My Sports Facebook Page. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Barca beaten by Valencia in early blow for Setien

VALENCIA (Spain) — Quique Setien's honeymoon period lasted less than a fortnight as he tasted his first Barcelona defeat on Saturday in his second La Liga game in charge after a 2-0 loss to Valencia.

Maxi Gomez's strike and a Jordi Alba own goal at Mestalla handed Barca their fourth league defeat of the campaign, giving Real Madrid the chance to move three points clear of the champions at the top of the table when they visit Real Valladolid on Sunday.

Barcelona had most of the ball but their opponents had the best chances as Gomez missed a penalty and also hit the crossbar in the first half. Gabriel Paulista saw a third goal ruled out late on.

While performances under previous coach Ernesto Valverde were stodgy, he left a team that sat top of the table.

Setien promised a new style but despite dominating possession, Barcelona went nowhere with it and as Valencia grew in confidence, they ceded control.

"It should not take us long," Setien had said on Friday, when asked how quickly his players could adapt to his methods.

Valencia climb to fifth and continue to improve under Albert Celades. This success came without their captain Dani Parejo and, largely, without star striker Rodrigo Moreno, who has been linked with a January move to Barcelona. The hosts hardly touched the ball for the first six minutes, their fans whistling as they urged a more aggressive approach. But the plan was to sit and absorb and it worked, with Barcelona unable to cut through or create a single clear chance.

- Valencia dangerous -

And when Valencia did in-

tervene, they were more dangerous too. With their first attack they won a penalty as Jose Gaya slipped past Gerard Pique and would surely have scored from eight yards before being brought down. Pique was booked and, with Parejo absent, Gomez stepped up, only for his driven shot to be well saved by Marc-Andre ter Stegen, albeit with the help of half a yard's headstart off his line.

Barca were riding their luck. Sergi Roberto's header cannoned off Pique but fell just close enough for Ter Stegen, who parried a Gomez shot onto the crossbar and almost spilled another to Kevin Gameiro.

Referee Gil Manzano puts his hands together as if to apologise after failing to play advantage when Ferran Torres was clear but the frustration of Valencia's fans turned to ecstasy shortly after half-time.—AFP ■



Victoria University College FC keeper (blue) tries to palm the ball kicked by Dream Team player (red) during the Week-16 match of Myanmar Futsal League yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**

Week-16 of Myanmar Futsal League ends with big wins

THE Week-16 matches of the Myanmar Futsal League ended with a big victory yesterday at National Indoor Stadium II in Yangon.

Victoria University College (VUC) Futsal Club scored their big win of 16-3 over Dream Team Futsal Club.

In other matches, GV Futsal Club trounced AMM Brothers Futsal Club 6-1.

Also, Myanmar Imperial University Futsal Club beat On Doctor Futsal Club by a score of 6-2.

Do Do Ko Ko Futsal Club defeated Futsal Chit Thu Futsal Club by a score of 6-3.

Myoma JY Futsal Club was

victorious over Let Wel Thone Nara Futsal 5-1.

The match played between Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) U-19 Futsal Club and Winner Futsal Club ended with a 2-2 draw.

After the Week-16 matches, Victoria University College Futsal Club is still leading the scoring table with no losses, and Myanmar Imperial University Futsal Club stands in second place with the same points, but with a difference in goals.

Meanwhile, GV Futsal Club is in third place with a four points difference to the first and second place teams.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

26 JANUARY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

WAYS TO AVOID A TROUBLED MARRIAGE



By May Thu Htay
2nd year Honours Student,
English Specialization,
University of Yangon

I must say that a troubled marriage not only harms the couple and the children but also many people because if two people marry, this can be interpreted as that "It is putting many strangers into a friend zone." As a couple, they are responsible for both relatives reciprocally. No matter how you say you get along with your boyfriend or girlfriend, in reality, in getting married, you will find it difficult to enjoy a happy marriage.

Do all the readers know the consequences of a broken marriage? It can affect the children and the parents' reputation concerned, the psychology of children, the dignity of both people, the complicated matters like the division of property, etc. If so, what's a happy marriage like?

- (1) A happy marriage is based on the trust and loyalty of couples. Remember that when you decide to marry, try to be the one who prizes loyalty to your spouses. Only that there can be a sweet home for every couple. If there is a case of fidelity, every house will be riddled with hostility and will be like a war every day.
- (2) A happy marriage needs to ensure that couples stay connected, family stays connected. Particularly, in Yangon, we have to struggle a lot with our jobs so that finding family time cannot be easily negotiable for some families and couples.
- (3) Work together and enjoy a moment together- If couples spare some time to accomplish some tasks, the bond will fasten between them. For example, planting trees together and going on a vacation occasionally will help them reduce their ego in some way.
- (4) Accept differences - The two cannot have the same taste in everything. So, in some cases, negotiations, giving priority are needed. Even just considering the curry we prefer. The husband's preference is fish. The wife doesn't eat fish at all. There's got a problem definitely. Here, it is just a trivial difference that the couples might encounter. The thing that he prizes and the one that she loves might not be the same. However, love and acceptance can erase all of these.

In most of the cases, the one that nags in a marriage is the wife according to their traits mostly. The sensitive point in a marriage can be when one talks bad about one's relatives. Therefore, after marriage, the couples should have mutual respect for the relatives from both sides. Treating all as extended family might be the best diplomatic way.

These are the vaccinations of divorce, in fact, marriage should not be meant for divorce, it should be meant for the bliss of two people and the bliss of the progeny.



My experiences with ...

Gandhi's *"The Story of My Experiments with Truth"*

By Kyaw King

When I was ten or eleventh, I asked my father if he had ever read any biography of a famous person. Yes, he said he had read an autobiography of a world-famous non-violence leader.

I asked who the non-violence leader is and he told me that he was an Indian peace-maker,

who is also a lawyer, politician, activist and writer. His name is Mahatma Gandhi. My father then said if you want to read the book, you can borrow from your aunt.

It was a summer holiday, I went to the house of my grandparents where my aunt's bookshelf is located. My aunt was attending training and not

at home but I could access her bookshelf with the permission of her mother, my grandmother who always encourages me to read books.

I easily found the soft plastic covered book from the shelf. It was a Myanmar version. The Myanmar version was translated from its English version titled *"An Autobiography: 'The Story of My Experiments with Truth'"* by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

I got much interest in the book and read it in two days without playing with my friends. When I was reading and after reading the book, some changes -- eating only vegetarian meals for a few days -- happened to me. The motive I got from the books reduced my greed to a certain level and also strengthen my patience.

I wanted to own this book but my aunt's much love on her books didn't fulfill my desire. I requested her to give me the book. She replied that no, you can read it anytime at home. This was my first experience with the book. I only ate vegetarian meals for a few weeks which then I gave up. Except for the wish of owning the book, I had only remembered a few parts of the book.

When I was attending Maubin University, I arrived at its library by chance, with my friends on a Friday afternoon. They chose books to borrow. I browsed some books with them on the book shelves. I secondly found the autobiography again. My first experience with the book came into my mind and arouse my desire for the second experience. I wanted to read it again and to own it. As I had yet no library card, I only went back hostel empty-handed but with the desire to find and buy it tomorrow.

A bookshop in downtown Maubin has fulfilled my desire.

I bought it, went back to the hostel and read it the whole weekend without hanging out with my classmates. I finished it before Monday. I still remember that I had my lunch only with a plate of sautéed water grass or fried egg at canteen the whole week. Being vegetarian, Gandhi influenced me a lot. He avoided all meats and even tried to avoid milk. His experiments with milk are also very interesting for me.

I still remember a sentence from the chapter of his experiment with milk: it is my firm conviction that man need take no milk at all, beyond the mother's milk that he takes as a baby. For me, I avoided meat for few months after my second experience with the autobiography.

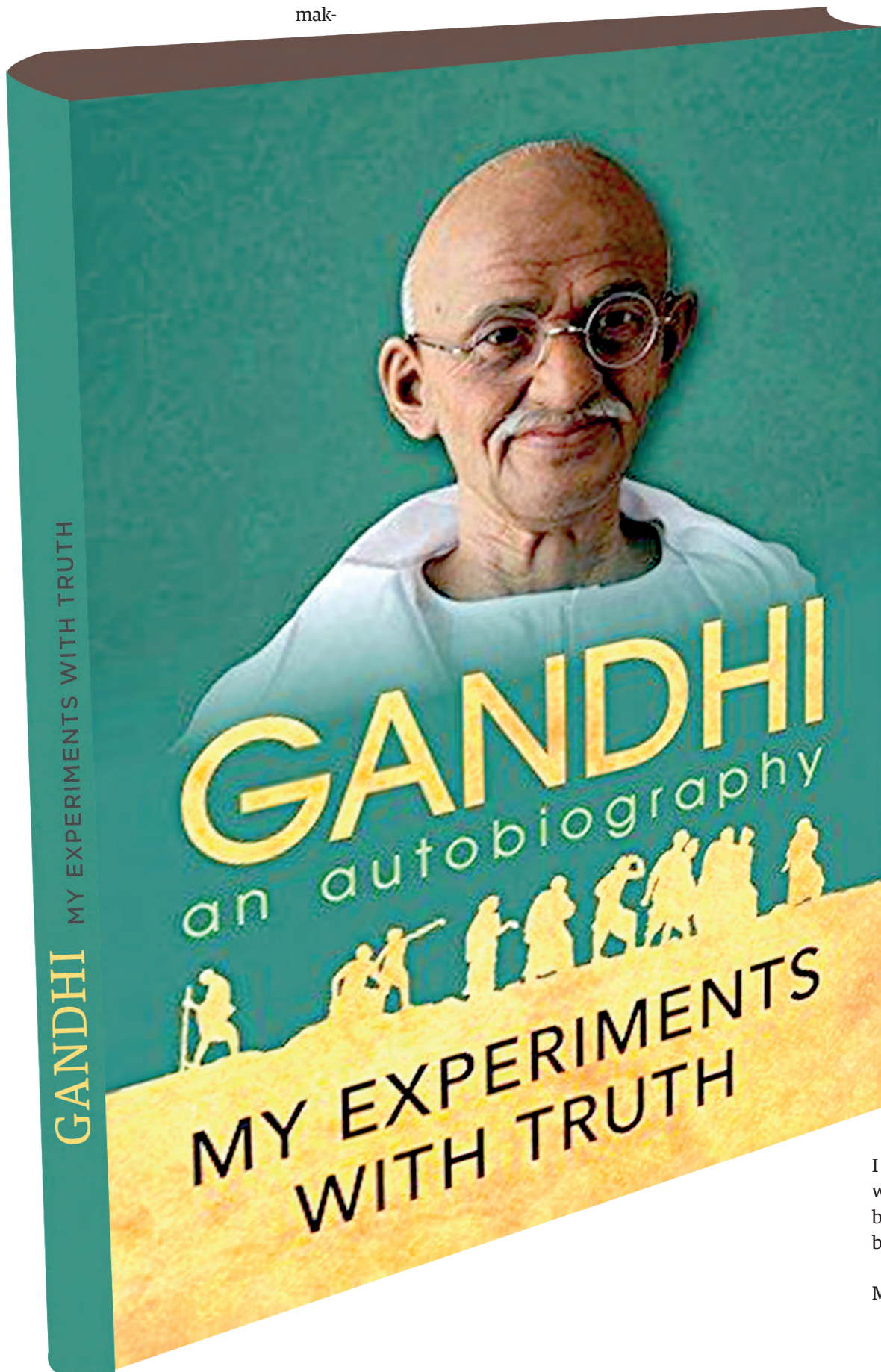
I avoided meats for a month but my motivation for going vegetarian had been lost after a certain time. I wanted to refresh my motivation. I couldn't but in 2020.

A few weeks before the Big Bad Wolf Book Sale Yangon 2020, I accidentally found the English version of Gandhi's autobiography again from a second-hand books shop in Pan-sodan. Thirdly, I read it again, and unfinished yet. But I went vegetarian on my last off day.

In his life, Gandhi experimented with truth many times. He also used the word "Truth" in his book many times.

A paragraph I like best from his well-known book is: Truth is like a vast tree, which yields more and more fruit, the more you nurture it. The deeper the search in the mine of truth the richer the discovery of the gems buried there, in the shape of openings for an ever greater variety of service.

The above were some of my unfinished experiences with a famous non-violence peace-maker Mahatma Gandhi's *"An Autobiography: 'The Story of My Experiments with Truth'"* that I always recommend my friends to try it.



The pebbles that were watching me daily



By S. Shwe Lin Yaung
B.Sc, Patheingyi University

I remembered the days on which my grandma and I were within a little house. In fact, we were in a small family consisting of four family members: my grandma, my aunt, my dad and myself. I was a motherless child. Therefore, my grandma took good care of me on behalf of my mom. As my dad and my aunt were the government staff, almost everything I needed was fulfilled by my grandma. At that moment, she was in her 70s and I was in Grade VII. I slept with my grandma every night because she told me various kinds of stories before I fell asleep at night.

I also remembered, at that time, grandma was partially paralyzed and one of her legs was abnormal in function but she could still walk inside the house. Before I slept, grandma rubbed my calf of the legs, searched the small protuberances, which is a kind of skin eruption, above the surface of it and removed it tenderly. It was a great comfort for me before falling asleep, listening to the random stories told by her.

When I woke up and looked for my grandma, she was not in bed. She was an early riser. I think she got up from bed at about 4 a.m. Before she was paralyzed, she plucked the 'Set-kyar' flowers which were small and white blooming every morning in front of my house. There were three or four 'Set-kyar' flower-trees whose sizes were the same as the height of my grandma. In three seasons, she never failed to pluck the flowers. Before the crack of dawn, she washed them with water, placed them in an aluminum tray and left it which was covered with a wet cloth for a day.

In the late afternoon, she counted the heap of flowers in great patience and care. She, then, made strings as of beads on zinc thread and offered to the Lord Buddha. I would not like to emphasize the offering of flowers but

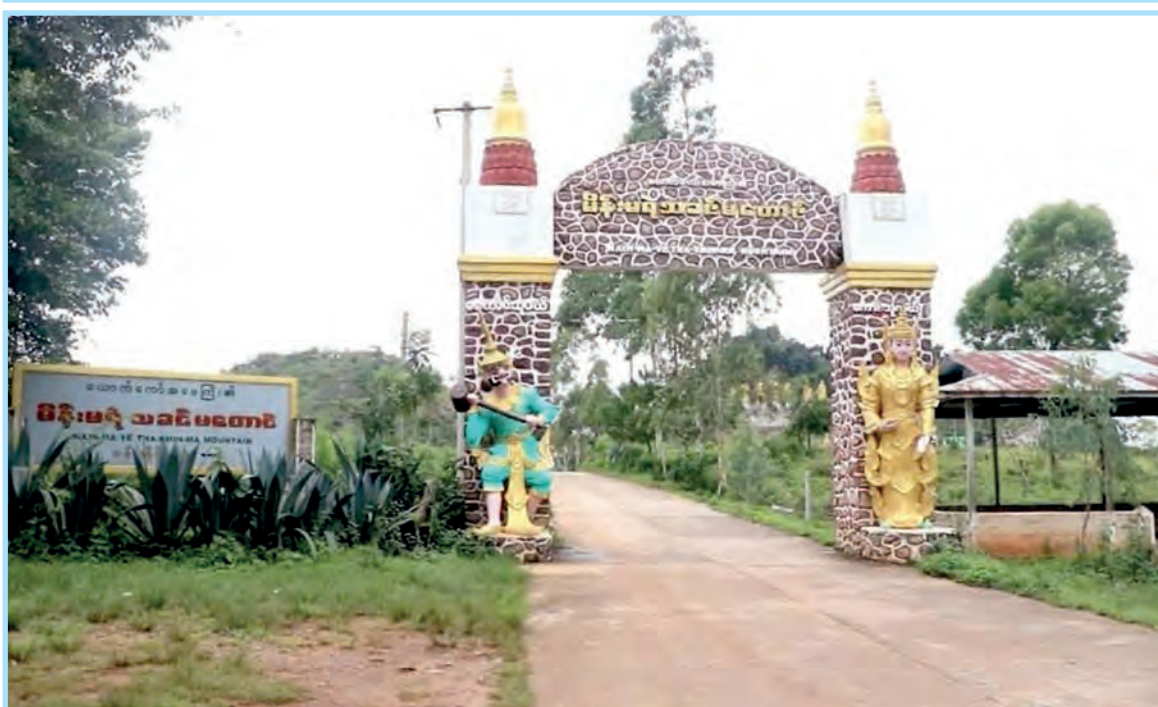
I am going to put up the readers about the numbers of flowers. After counting the flowers, grandma noted the numbers in a book with dates. When the total numbers of the flowers turned to ten thousand, she picked a white pebble up from the roadside and placed them in a small cloth-bag. By the time I became aware of, there had already been three or four cloth-bags full of pebbles behind the special chamber for the use of the Buddha Image on the altar. I was amazed and asked my grandma about the pebbles.

Grandma explained to me the benefits of offering the flowers to the Lord Buddha. While explaining, she seemed active and alert and her eyes are so brilliant that I could never forget her explanation. She completely believed that the effect of a single pebble could convey her to the six-tiered abode of celestial beings. I was amazed again because I could not guess the total numbers of pebbles in those cloth-bags. There were so many pebbles in them that my grandma would not again come back to our worldly world from the abode of celestial beings. When I realized it, there were tears welling up in my eyes. Grandma smiled at me strumming my hair and rubbing my back with her frail fingers in order to solace me.

Although she did not seem to know about Vipassana, she had an eternal belief of the essence of the effect of the donation of flowers to the Lord Buddha. In reality, I did not know about Vipassana and Samatha practices.

Grandma left the world when I was a second-year student in the matric class. After her departure from our family, I felt that I was being watched by a fairy from the abode of celestial beings every day. I felt it alone and did not tell it to the rest of my family members. My dear readers, I think you will easily guess the fairy who was watching me every day. Couldn't it have been the other one except for my grandma?





Ywangan, southern Shan State, offers natural environment for holiday-makers

By Min Htet Aung
(Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Myathabeik Blue Water Lake, fish which eat pieces of oranges, and the Tawkyal Water Fall in Ywangan in Danu Self-Administered Zone in southern Shan State, are popular among local and foreign travellers.

Additionally, scenic views seen from the 582-ft high Meinmaye Thakhinma Mountain in the town remains a famous destination for travellers.

Feeding oranges to fish in the Blue Water Lake is fantastic for them. Splashing in a lake under the Tawkyal Water Fall and taking photos that are posted on social media is considered a must for travellers.

Local Danu ethnic people have also earned income from selling local food, vegetables and souvenirs in the area.

"Visitor arrivals significantly increase in the first week of January. The natural environment in this area is unspoiled and offers scenic beauty. The fine weather is also attracting travellers for recreation here," said Ko Kyi Soe Tun, a Danu ethnic man.

Ywangan is accessible through the Kalaw-Aungpan Road, Taungyi-Heho Road and Pintaya-Aungpan Road.

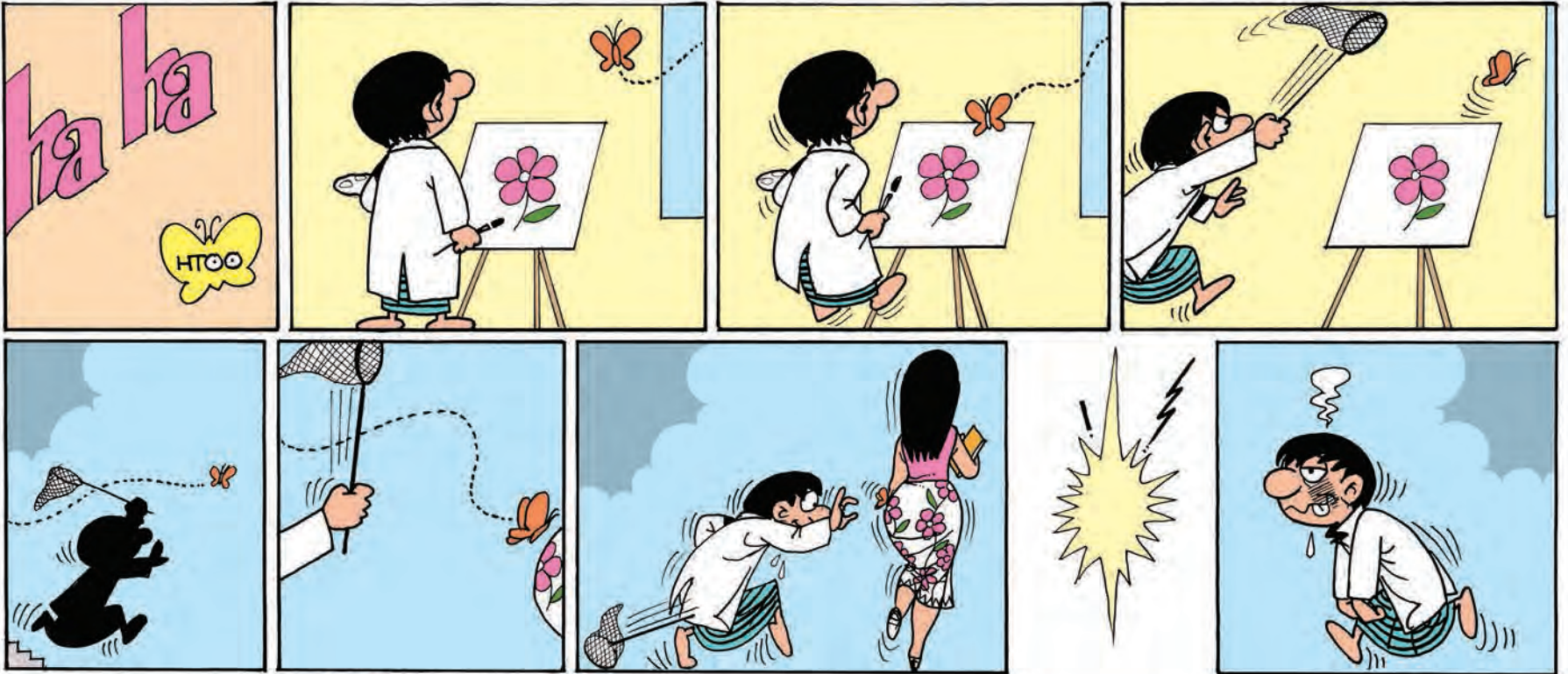
Danu is one of the ethnic national races in Myanmar. Danus mainly live in five townships and, of these, Pindaya and Ywangan townships were designated as a Danu Self-Administered Zone. Pindaya Town is the capital of Danu Self-Administered Zone.

Translated by Net Ye Hla



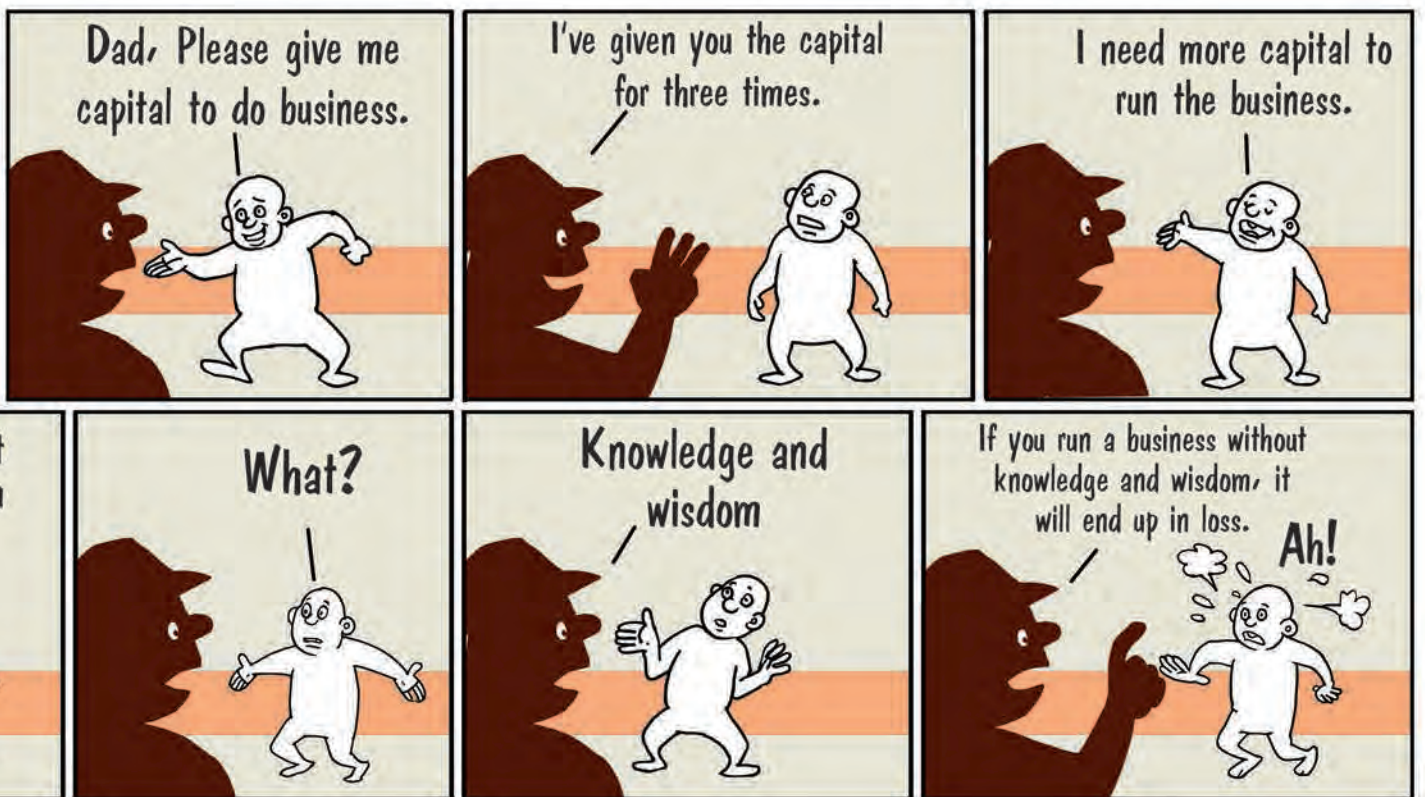
PHOTOS: MIN HTET AUNG

SUNDAY COMICS



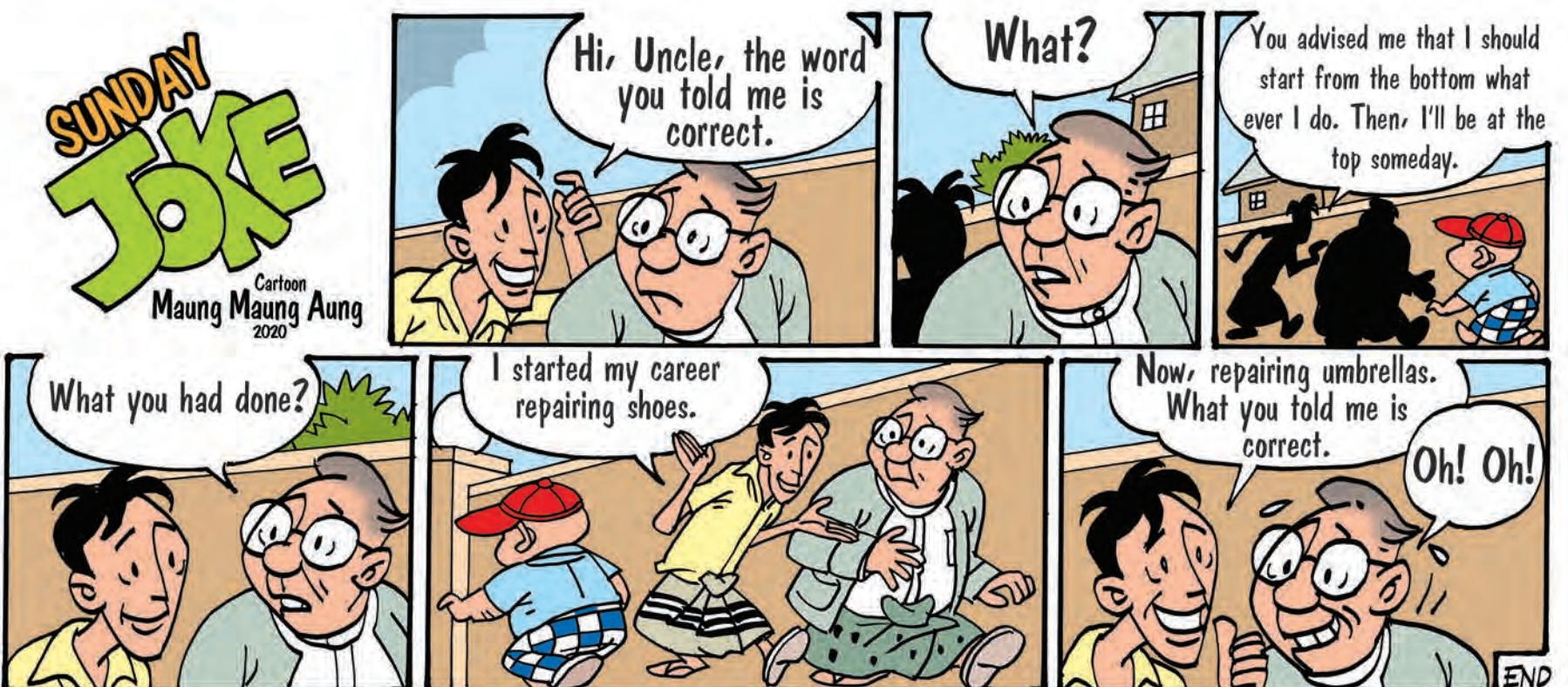
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2020



An open letter to ‘Ko’ whom I met at a curve of my life



By Ms. Moon
*Final year Honours
(English) Dagon University*

It is said that the world is not a power plant that cannot make every prayer fulfill. Both you and I like these words a lot. When it rains, I think whether ‘Ko’ who is hardly ill might be fine. When I happen to have sour, salty, hot and spicy ones, I think whether ‘Ko’ who likes hot and spicy meals might happen to have a mixed salad of rice and vegetables. When the babies cry, I also think about whether ‘Ko’ who loves babies might happen to smile as before. When I said, “I love Sun-days”, ‘Ko’ looked at me with a pleasing smile. Whatever

I said to him, ‘Ko’ gave me a response of a smile. Even when I did not say him any words, ‘Ko’ always gazed at my face smiling. Why did Mr. Fate make us meet if you gave us a chance of meeting with just a short period? I could not think why time comes and goes so quickly. It was an enjoyable batch of days that could be counted numbering as over a hundred. For me, it has been only a remembrance in which it included his tender palms, his swollen cheeks, his smiles which were almost to disappear whenever he heartily laughed and a feeling of warmth on my forehead whenever I shut my eyelids for a while. In the secular world in which there are plenty of things to be able to choose, there are two atmospheres of society, the ring of engagement on his finger and then my tiny heart... Which will I choose? If someone says to me to set the color of love, I will choose yellow as a symbol of love. When the sun shines and it rains heavily, the yellow umbrella will protect me. When I listen to music as I tend to weep, the yellow headphone will softly encourage and please me. When I go about somewhere, the yellow haversack will accompany me on my shoulders. When I fall down, the yellow slippers will encourage me to go ahead with bravery. It is sure, Dear ‘Ko’; a

yearning can be completed just enough for a leaf to fall from a high tree. In reality, it is me who is worried about him who always gives warnings repeatedly that he is worried about me. When he is tired, will his spouse lend a helping hand? Is he able to get enough love he needs? Will he be neatly wrapped with a blanket when it is cold at night? Will he be warned to take syrup when he has a lot of coughs? Please, stay near me! Please, stay with me! Please, make love only me! These words characterized by desire come from the bottom of my heart and though they are wanted to be uttered verbally like a child, the world is not a power plant that cannot make every prayer fulfill. In fact, loving with one another is not to live together, isn’t it? Some meetings might be permanent while some are for just a remembrance. Dear ‘Ko’, life is worth living and enjoyable because I have met one whom I loved dearly. In return, I obtained love from that man. We could create some remembrances. It is worth living. It is like the words you and I said, “When we greatly remember each other, let us gaze the stars thinking enjoyable remembrances.” That we cannot unite is not our fault, isn’t it, ‘Ko’?





By Phyu Min
BA (English); Dip in ELTM;
Dip in English.

The countryside is a rural area. It is far from towns and cities. It has farms, fields, lakes, woods, forests and mountains. Nowadays, most towns and cities become densely populated. In the city, many people have to struggle for their daily lives.They always have to hurry for everything.They hardly find free time to enjoy life. They find it difficult to live in the city. Besides, due to the vehicles and factories, the weather becomes warmer in the cities. Thus, most people become interested in moving to the countryside. They come to realize and see the benefits of living in the countryside.

There are several benefits of living in the countryside.One of the benefits of living in the countryside is less pollution because there are fewer cars and factories than in the city. Factories produce toxic waste into the air, resulting in air pollution. In the countryside, the air is clean. As a result, we can

breathe in fresh air. As it is also near rivers,mountains and forests, the surrounding is quiet and the air is fresh. As a result, we can enjoy a feeling of peace and good health.

Another benefit is that we can get a wider space for buildings, gardening and animal husbandry in the countryside.This is because charges for ground are much cheaper than in the suburbs. In the city, we have to live in a small flat if we don't have enough money to buy houses. Unlike the city, we can build houses and, if we wish, we can do gardening.We can grow various kinds of vegetables and fruits.As a result, we can eat fresh vegetables and fruits. We can do animal husbandry. We can keep chickens,ducks, pigs and cows.

The third benefit of living in the countryside is that we can raise a healthy family. This is because the food is better for us, the air is fresher and the people are nicer and more patient.Also country people are

friendlier than city people, which make the countryside a better and safer place to live, especially for children.

Last but not least, we can do outdoor activities to enjoy good health.We can have easy access to hiking, climbing, bike riding, camping, fishing hunting and numerous places where we can do just about anything that we want without travelling somewhere else to do them. We can also enjoy the beauty of nature at its best.

In conclusion, living in the countryside is an enjoyable and rewarding experience. We can easily find a quiet and peaceful place to live, enjoying the nature and the fresh air all the time without the stress, noise and pollution that the city has.These are the benefits that we can get by living in the countryside. For these reasons, a lot of people enjoy living in the tranquil countryside because it can bring a lot of benefits to them.



INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG706	5:50	8:10	Daily	
8M335	7:30	9:15	Daily	
UB-019	7:25	9:20	Daily	
TG2304	9:35	11:30	Daily	
PG702	10:30	12:30	1,2,3,4,6,7	
TG2302	11:20	13:15	Daily	
PG708	15:35	17:35	Daily	
8M331	16:30	18:15	Daily	
UB-017	17:35	19:30	Daily	
PG704	18:35	20:35	Daily	
TG306	19:50	21:45	Daily	

YANGON TO DON MUEANG				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
DD4231	8:05	9:50	Daily	
FD252	8:45	10:30	Daily	
SL201	8:30	10:20	1,3,4,5,7	
FD254	17:40	19:25	Daily	
FD258	21:40	23:30	Daily	
SL207	19:35	21:25	1,2,4,6,7	
DD4239	21:00	22:45	Daily	

YANGON TO GUANGZHOU				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
8M711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7	
CZ3056	11:25	15:55	3,6	
CZ3056	17:30	22:00	1,5	

YANGON TO SINGAPORE				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
UB001	7:15	23:45	Daily	
8M231	8:20	12:40	Daily	
SQ997	10:25	15:10	Daily	
3K582	11:30	16:05	1,4,5,7	
UB003	16:00	20:30	Daily	
MI519	17:35	22:10	1,2,4,6,7	
MI521	18:30	22:55	3,4,5,6	
3K584	19:40	00:10	1,2,3,5,6,7	

YANGON TO SEOUL INCHEON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KE472	23:30	7:25	Daily	

YANGON TO TAIPEI				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CI7916	10:45	16:20	Daily	

BANGKOK TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
TG2303	7:50	8:45	Daily	
PG701	8:45	9:40	1,2,3,4,6,7	
TG2301	9:35	10:30	Daily	
8M336	10:40	11:25	Daily	
UB020	10:20	11:15	Daily	
PG707	13:45	14:40	Daily	
PG703	16:50	17:45	Daily	
TG305	18:05	18:50	Daily	
8M332	19:15	20:00	Daily	
PG705	20:30	21:55	Daily	
UB018	20:30	21:25	Daily	

DON MUEANG TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
DD4230	6:20	7:05	Daily	
FD251	7:30	8:15	Daily	
SL200	6:45	7:35	1,3,4,5,7	
FD253	16:25	17:05	Daily	
FD257	20:30	21:10	Daily	
SL206	18:55	19:45	1,2,4,6,7	
DD4238	19:30	20:15	Daily	

GUANGZHOU TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CZ3055	8:30	10:20	3,6	
8M712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7	
CZ3055	14:40	16:30	1,5	

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

SEOUL INCHEON TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KE471	18:15	22:10	Daily	

TAIPEI TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CI7915	7:00	9:50	Daily	

YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
AK505	8:25	12:40	Daily	
MH741	11:15	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	Daily	
OD553	23:55	4:20+1	2,3,5,6	

YANGON TO HONG KONG				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KA251	1:25	6:00	1,2,3,4,6,7	
UB8027	7:05	11:45	3,5,7	
KA275	17:05	21:50	1,3,5,7	

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

YANGON TO DUBAI				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
EK389	2:00	5:45	1,2,4,6	

YANGON TO BEIJING				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CA906	23:50	5:50+1	1,3,4,5,7	

YANGON TO HANIO				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN956	19:00	21:30	Daily	
VJ918	18:55	21:20	Daily	

YANGON TO HO CHI MINH				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN942	12:10	15:05	1,3,4,6,7	

YANGON TO TOKYO				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
NH814	22:10	6:45+1	Daily	

YANGON TO DOHA				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
QR919	1:05	4:55	1,3,4,6,7	

YANGON TO CHIANG MAI				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG724	13:40	15:30	1,3,4,7	

KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
AK504	6:45	7:55	Daily	
MH740	9:10	10:25	Daily	
OD550	10:15	11:30	1,4,7	
MH742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7	
AK502	17:20	18:30	Daily	
OD552	21:45	22:55	2,3,5,6	

HONG KONG TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
UB8028	12:45	14:30	3,5,7	
KA250	21:50	23:35	1,2,3,5,6,7	
KA254	14:20	16:10	1,3,5,7	

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

DUBAI TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
EK388	10:30	16:15	1,3,5,7	

BEIJING TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CA905	19:00	22:55	1,3,4,5,7	

HANIO TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN957	16:40	18:05	Daily	
VJ917	16:30	17:55	Daily	

HO CHI MINH TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN943	9:30	11:05	1,3,4,6,7	

TOKYO TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
NH813	11:00	16:25	Daily	

DOHA TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
QR918	8:25	17:50	2,3,5,6,7	

CHIANG MAI TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG723	12:05	12:55	1,3,5,7	

YANGON TO KUNMING				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
MU2580	10:55	14:35	2,4,6	
MU2012	13:40	20:50	3	
MU9750	15:55	19:35	2,4,6	
MU9758	15:55	19:35	1,3,5,7	

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

MANDALAY TO DON MUEONG				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
FD245	12:55	15:20	Daily	

MANDALAY TO KUNMING	
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