

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Royal Thai Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Royal Thai Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin at the Zeya Thiri Beikman yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that Myanmar and Thailand are old and good neighbouring countries, friendship between the two Tatmadaws is of great importance for both countries, which could help strengthen the friendship

between the two countries, and thereby restore peace and stability of the border areas.

Next Royal Thai Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin expressed his gratitude for welcoming them with open arms, and he felt honoured to receive a honorary air corps wing medal that was conferred for the first time by Myanmar Tatmadaw (Air) and efforts would be made to enhance the friendship and cooperation between the two Tatmadaws and



C-in-C of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Royal Thai Air Chief Marshal Chaiyapruk Didyasarin. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

the two Air Forces.

After that, they cordially discussed matters related to making official exchange visits of different ranks of armed forces that aims at promoting friendship

and cooperation between the two Tatmadaws, implementation process of friendship sport events, cultural exchange shows among the two Tatmadaws, working to restore stability and peace of the

border areas, and cooperation to prevent the natural disasters, according to a news release from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA
(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin receives Sir Simon McDonald, Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign, Commonwealth Office, UK

THE Union Minister for International Cooperation, U Kyaw Tin, received Sir Simon McDonald, the Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the United Kingdom, at 10:00 am. on 8 January 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the occasion were Directors Generals and officers concerned from the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on bilateral relations and development cooperation between the two countries, the preparations and procedures for relocation of UK Embassy to Nay Pyi Taw, and the challenges facing Myanmar in its democratic transition process including the issue of Rakhine State.—MNA ■

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko attends Myanmar-China Pauk-Phaw friendship ceremony in NyaungU

UNION MINISTER for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko attended the donation ceremony of Myanmar-China Pauk-Phaw friendship to mark 58th anniversary of the Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai's visit to Myanmar, yesterday morning at the Premier Zhou Enlai's pavilion hall of the eastern part of the Shwezigone Pagoda in NyaungU,

Mandalay Region.

At the ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang explained about the purpose of donation and Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko expressed his appreciation for the donation made.

Next, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and wife, Minis-

ter of Planning and Finance of Mandalay Region U Myat Thu, Myanmar-China Friendship Association Chairman U Sein Win Aung and officials donated the foodstuff, medicine and kitchen utensils worth K10 million to the 100 households in NyaungU Township. —U Ye Win Naing (NyaungU) /
(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung) ■

MEEA to hold Ethnic Culture Festival in Yangon from 25 to 30 Jan

By Yi Yi Myint, Mi Mi Phyo

MYANMAR Ethnic Entrepreneurs' Association (MEEA) is organizing a Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest in Kyaikkasan Ground, Yangon from 25 to 30 January and a press conference about the fest was held at Yangon Region Government Office yesterday afternoon.

At the press conference Yangon Region minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung said, "Today's press conference is held to inform the media about the aim of holding the 'Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest.' This is the first time in our country's history that such ethnic fest is held. The unity of ethnic nationals is very important. The fest is held as a small contribution toward the peace process in a way of a sand



Press conference on holding Myanmar Ethnic Culture Festival held in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

particle or a brick in a construction work." Next, MEEA General Secretary U Min Banya San explained about preparations made to hold the 'Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest' grandly.

Afterwards questions raised

by the media were responded to by Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs and officials. The opening ceremony of 'Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest' will be held on 8 a.m. 25 January in Kyaikkasan Ground, Yangon.

The fest will be held from 25 to 30 January and the entry is free.

At the fest, famous singers will entertain with songs and each ethnic national will perform a dance. There'll be Miss Ethnic Myanmar 2019, exhibits showing cultural traditions and livelihood of ethnic nationals, selling products produced by ethnic national business persons, Ethnic Night Market where food for all religions and ethnicities are available and photo opportunity sites where photographs can be taken.

Miss Ethnic Myanmar 2019 will be selected to promote traditional cultures of ethnic nationals and travel business. The winner will represent MEEA as an ambassador to promote friendship and peace among ethnic nationals. The first prize for the winner is K 15 million and a gold crown

with 8 gems, first runner-up will receive K 7 million and other prizes while the second runner-up will receive K 3 million. Ten additional titles will also be awarded it is learnt.

Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest is held with the aims of showcasing friendship and unity of ethnic nationals; to support peace yearned for by the people; for local, foreigners and ethnic nationals to know, observe and visit the culture traditions and natural beauty of the ethnic nationals' lands in Myanmar; to develop travel businesses; to promote goods and products produced in ethnic nationals' regions; expand into international market and create job and business opportunities for young ethnic nationals it is learnt.■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Honoring fallen policemen who sacrificed their lives for the Union

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a free, sovereign home to many ethnic nationals. It is our responsibility to guard our Union.

After regaining independence, we were unable to establish a Union trusted and valued by all; till date, we have had more than 70 years of armed conflicts based on suspicion, mistrust, hate, and antagonism. The dreams and aspirations of our country and our people were sacrificed in the long-drawn armed conflicts.

In the past, we experienced dangers which could have led to the disintegration of the Union, and many sacrificed their lives to prevent the country from falling apart.

The latest terrorist attacks have complicated the situation in the region – where the Union Government is working to build stability and security and carrying out development projects

is working to build stability and security and carrying out development projects — and have put the lives and property of the people at risk.

Hence, we honor the policemen who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Our people are safe and secure because of them. They fought and died for us, for our Union.

The police, as well as the armed forces of the country, work to protect and defend the country and prevent the disintegration of the Union, renewing this commitment every day, even at the cost of their lives.

We can honor their sacrifice by resolving to serve our nation and each other. Along with their families, we carry the loss of our brothers in our hearts.

All citizens must strive for unity and integrity of the Union, the perpetuation of sovereignty, and must work towards the emergence of a proud, peaceful, and prosperous nation.

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Shwe Thway: A milestone in the history of children's literature in Myanmar

By Maung Hlaing
Chief Editor (Retd.)
Sarpay Beikman

“CHILDREN'S literature is of high value, as it is created to help bring up innocent children in such a way as to become happy and lovely people.”

“Children's literature is more difficult to create because there are more limitations such as the quality of the characters, the familiarity of the environment and the reading level.”

These remarks were made by ex-President U Htin Kyaw at the opening ceremony of the Children's Literature Festival held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre -2 (MICC-2) on 5 November, 2016. He said so simply because he himself is a writer and he was born of Sayagyi Min Thu Wun who pioneered the children's literature.

Although we cannot definitely say the dawn of children's literature of Myanmar; six periods could roughly be defined—from Myanmar prehistoric time to Late Konboun period; Colony period (1886-1948); Parliament Democracy period (1948-1962); Lanzin Party, or Socialist Revolution period (1962-1988); State Law and Order Restoration Council/State Peace and Development Council period (1988-2010); and Transformation period towards democracy (2011- to date).

Scholars say that in the prehistoric time, children's literature was descended from story-telling. It is because children love listening to story-telling. When we were very very small, before we had even learned to read, we loved to listen to the tales or stories Grandpa or Grandma told us. Hundreds of times we were transported to the Benares and King Bramahdat who is well acquainted with children. And we the children were familiar with the story of “Mae Htwe Lay and the Serpent”, a Myanmar traditional folk-tale. We had pity on Mae Htwe Lay who was simple and honest. At the same time, we had an antipathy to her cruel elders.

Not only in Myanmar but also in nations of the world, adults have told stories to their children since the prehistoric times. Fairy tales, folk-tales, myths, epics, ballads and fables have existed since

then. Early people handed down their folk literature orally from generation to generation. In the Innwa (Ava) Dynasty, literature for children came out thanks to the emergence of (rhyming) homily (ဆုံးမစာ). Most of the homilies were written by monk writers who wanted children to become good citizens.

After the British annexation of Myanmar in 1886, the entire Myanmar became its colony and we saw the British Colony period. In Mawlamyine (Moulmein) which was accustomed to the British Administration, missionary schools were thriving. A Book for children—Burmese Pictorial Reader—compiled by Maung Na Kaw was printed at A.B.M printing press in 1865. It was said to be a first and foremost reader for children in Myanmar.

Similarly, Thudamasari Precedents, or Judgements printed and published in Sittway (Rakhine State) in 1866 could also be considered to be a book for children. It contained folk-tales for children. Moreover, “Hitaw Padetha” printed and published in Yangon in 1870 was put on the list of children's literature. Later, it was in the 1870's that the translated works for children began to flourish. In 1873, the world-famous “Aesop's Fables” were translated by W.Shwe Too Sandy. Although the themes were based on alien origins they could attract both young readers and adults.

Regarding the history of children's literature in Myanmar, we cannot ignore the significant role played by “The World of Books” (နွဲ့လောကစာစောင်) that emerged in 1920's. It served as a bridge between the olden day's style and the modern ones.

“The World of Books” carried traditional folktales and translated works for children. Most of the works educated the children to know how to obey the elders. It introduced translation competitions to children's literature which were known as “Prize Translation”.

Even U Thant (Former Secretary-General of UNO) translated a poem of French origin “The Crow and the Fox” into Myanmar under the pen-name of “Thilawa”. Likewise, Thakin Ba Thauang paved the way for children's literature based on nationalism and patriotism through the children's corner



of the World of Books.

The movements of literature for children gradually gained momentum when the pioneers such as Maung Wun, Sun Thawdar, Anyatra, Wathawa, Mya Wut Yee, Shwe ka-nyit, Mingalar, Welu Thumana took part in the movemets.

According to the records, “The Burma Boy” (မြန်မာပြည်သားစာစောင်) which came out in 1924 could be called the first and foremost magazine for children and became an important milestone in the movement of children's literature in Myanmar. The publisher was an English named Mr. Kinch (of the Scouts) who established the Burma Art Club in Rangoon High School in 1918 taught painting to Myanmar students. Successful artists U Ba Nyan, U Ba Zaw and famous cartoonist U Hein Soon were his students. “The Burma Boy” contained The Editor's Notes, stories, materials on general knowledge including agriculture and livestock breeding, physical exercises and sports and etc. with attractive illustrations. However, the magazine was Brought to an end when Mr. Kinch was transferred to the Shan State in 1927.

It was in 1935 when a periodical called “Tet Khit” came out to encourage Myanmar citizens to learn current international affairs. The magazine enabled the young readers to have political outlook. Especially, it inspired Myanmar children to have nationalistic and religious fervour.

In the Parliament Democracy

period, Dr.Htin Aung wrote the Book “Selection From Burmese Folk Tales” which was published by the Oxford University Press in 1948. The book was written in English to make the world know the essence of Myanmar traditional folk tales.

In 1955, “The Children's Journal” (ခလေးဂျာနယ်) conducted by Saya Zawana came out. The journal was contributed by Sayagyi Min Thu Wun, Zawana, Ko Gyi Nanda-meik, Tet Toe, Htun Nay Nwe, Khin Myo Chit, Nu Yin, Ngwe Tar Yi and so on. It carried tales and translated works of international myths and tales.

During the period of Burma Socialist Programme Party, periodicals for children were produced and carried new styles of writing. In 1964, “The Shay Saung Lu-nge Journal” (ရွှေဆောင်လွယ်ကူနယ်) and “The Doe Kyaung-thar Sar-saung” (ရွှေကျောင်းသားစာစောင်) were produced by Myawady Press, under the Ministry of Information came out for children. “Shwe Thway” journal was born of Sarpay Beikman, which was under the Printing and Publishing Corporation (now Printing and Publishing Department), Ministry of Information on 4-1-1969. “Shwe Thway” came out in accordance with the objectives of “Getting to know one's own and others” cultures; Promoting concern for the disadvantaged and the handicapped; and Making children enjoy themselves in reading.” The journal has carried folk tales, modern short stories, short articles

for general knowledge, children's chuckles and poems with attractive colourful illustrations since the time when it was conceived. Most of the works are based on educational themes and they were illustrated by well-known artists and cartoonists such as U Ba Kyi, U Than Kywe, U Sein (Maung Sein), U Pe Thein, U Kyaw San (Ka-Hsa) U Tin Aye, U Than Nwe and young artists and cartoonists, who are now playing a leading role in the publishing world today.

When I joined the Sarpay Beikman in 1980, I became an editor of Shwe Thway which was ten years old and the journal was transformed into a bilingual one. The leading translators were Sayagyi U Win Pe (Mya Zin), U Ko Ko (Motley Ko-Ko), U Aung Chan Tha (C.T.Aung), Mr. Paul Aung Khin (P Aung Khin) and U Paw Htin (Jimmy Paw Htin). Later, Guardian U Kyaw Min (Min Kyaw Min) and U Khin Maung Aye (KMA) became translators for Shwe Thway. Now, the author of this article and U Khin Maung Lay (KML) who worked as Executive Editor of Shwe Thway for a long time are engaged as translators.

Except Saya Mya Zin, all the leading translators and artists and cartoonists have done their best and now they have earned their rest in peace. Those (Maung Hsu Shin, Daw Ohn Kyi, U San Lwin, Gayet Ni and etc) who gave birth to Shwe Thway Journal are no longer in Sarpay Beikman. However they have left the banner that will be

relayed to new generations.

Times have collapsed. Things are changing at an alarming rate. Shwe Thway may changed its formats and contents in line with the times and systems to attract the young readers. However, the essence of educating the young readers and inspiring them to have an access to all kinds of books will never never be changed. Shwe Thway will continue to instil a hobby or habit of reading into children.

From 16 to 20 September in 1965, a symposium on children's literature was held in the hall of Sarpay Beikman. After 1965, there were another two paper reading sessions—one was on “Literature for children” (in 1973) and another one was on “Folk Tales” (in 1987). Although we should celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Literature for Children in 2015, we failed to do so.

In our country today, the government itself is dedicated to achieving headway in children's literature. Publishing of books and journals and other periodicals designed and illustrated for children is gaining momentum. Children's Literature Festivals and Book Fairs jointly organized by the Ministry of Information and regional governments concerned, are successfully held in cities of states and regions all over the nation.

A child anywhere is a child and is always innocent. They are the potential torch bearers who will shoulder our duties we are carrying out today. What we should do our best is to prepare them for a happy and bright future by providing revelatory literature. They need literature that will pave the way for international peace, mutual understanding and friendship among children who will make the world anew.

We should not ignore the fact that failure to nurture the development of children's literature could ruin not only the future of the children but also that of the country.

In commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of Shwe Thway Journal that fell on 5 January, 2019!

- Ref ;
- 1.The Global New Light of Myanmar, 6-11-2016
 - 2.The Global New Light of Myanmar, 28-1-2017
 - 3.ကလေးလူငယ်စာပေ၊ ဒုတိယတွဲ၊ စာပေဗိမာန်၊ ၁၉၇၃

71st Kachin State Day celebration in Myitkyina to be broadcast live

A ceremony to celebrated the 71st Anniversary of the Kachin State Day will be held in the Manaw grounds, Sitarpu Ward, Myitkyina in Kachin State at 9:00 am on 10 January 2019. The ceremony will be broadcast live by the Myanma Radio and Television, National Race Channel and Myanma Radio and Television's Facebook starting from 8:45 am on the same day.—MNA

(Translated by JT)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Tuesday 8 January 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24)hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region. Rain or thundershowers has been scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing Region and Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Northern Shan State. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Sagaing and Magway regions, Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin and Kayin states, (5°C) above January average temperatures in Mandalay and Bago regions, Rakhine and Mon states, (7°C) above January average temperatures in Eastern Shan and Kayah states, (9°C) above January average temperature in Southern Shan State and about January average temperatures in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (4°C) in Haka and (6°C) each in Putao and Mongmit. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Cocogyun (6.85)inches, Labutta (3.74) inches, Kyaukme and Nawngkhio (3.31)inches each, Pyapon (3.23) inches, Kungyangon (3.07)inches, Hainggyikyun (3.03)inches, Belin (2.40)inches, PyinOoLwin and Chauk (2.36)inches, Ngazun (2.21)inches, Lashio (2.17)inches, North Dagon (2.13)inches and Mogok (2.09)inches.

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the Low Pressure Area over the Deltaic Areas and Southern Rakhine Coast (Myanmar) still persists. Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and Westcentral Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Low Pressure Are

8 January 2019, 14:00 MST

According to the observations at (13:30)hrs MST today, the Low Pressure Area over Eastcentral Bay and adjoining South-east Bay of Bengal now lies over the Deltaic Areas and Southern Rakhine Coast (Myanmar) still persists.

General caution

Due to the Low Pressure Area, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states, isolated to scattered in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Kachin and Chin states and with regionally heavy falls in Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Shan State and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Region, Kayah and Rakhine states within next (36) hours commencing today afternoon. Occasional Squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)mph. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.