HUMANITARIAN AID ARRIVE FOR IDPS IN KYAUKME P-11 (NATIONAL)

NATIONAL
Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker opens new concrete road in Myawady, Kayin State
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
Children awarded for good storytelling
PAGE-2

LOCAL BUSINESS
Automobile entrepreneurs want Yangon Region government to allow night parking at car dealing stations
PAGE-4

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 266, 7th Waning of Pyatho 1379 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Monday, 8 January 2018

Media group collecting news in Maungtaw, Rakhine State

Members of the media group interviewing locals in Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD**

A MEDIA group, led by Dr. Myo Thant Tin, Vice-chairman of Myanmar Press Council, arrived in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine, yesterday. The group is collecting news about Maungtaw's restoration efforts.

Some 30 individuals are part of the group, including members of the Myanmar Press Council, led by their Vice-Chairman; and reporters from news agencies, such as The Standard Time Daily, Frontier, Myanmar Times, Shwe Mandalay, News Watch, Tomorrow, Mizzima, Hanthawaddy, DVB, MCN TV News, Mawkun, 7day, and The Thanlyin Post; as well as independent and freelance reporters and journalists. In the morning, the group arrived at Done Pite village, Koe Tan Kaut village and Indin village in Yathedaung Township. By midday, they had travelled to the Kyauk-Pandu coast and Alethan-Kyaw coast in Maungtaw Township.

Next, the group travelled to Kainggyi (Mro) village, Maungtaw Township, and interviewed Village Administrator U San Htun.

They then continued to the ARG agriculture camp in Kinchaung village, travelled further to Kanyin Chaung economic zone and interviewed its Vice Chairman, U Aung Myint Thein.

Later, the group proceeded to the POE border entrance gate. The media group will continue collecting news in Maungtaw until 8 January. —District IPRD ■

Daingnet people celebrate national day

DAINGNET or Tdekkama, one of the native people of the Rakhine State, celebrated their national day yeterday with traditional songs, dances and music at Meegyoungswe village in the north of Buthidaung Township.

The Daingnet people said they hoped national day would help revive their race's original name "Tdekkama," develop their language and literature, preserve and propagate their near-extinct culture, costumes and food, as well as establish connections with overseas Daingnet, explained an official, who was part of the national day celebration committee.

Living in areas, including Buthidaung and Maungtaw of Rakhine State, together with other ethnic natives — Mro, Khamee, Thet, Maramagyi — Daingnet are striving to preserve their traditions and culture. This was the seventh national day celebration of the Daingnet people, who held their first national day commemoration at Letpangon village in Minbya Township in 2012. National day celebrations are held at villages where their people live. —Myint Maung/Zeya ■

KBZ BANK
STRENGTH OF MYANMAR
'BANK OF THE YEAR IN MYANMAR 2017'
Awarded by The Banker

Children awarded for good storytelling

THE second day of Children's Literature Festival hosted primary school level and middle school level story telling contests yesterday evening at the Aung Kyaw Hall of Basic Education High School No.6 Botahtaung, Yangon.

Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Naing presented awards to the first, first runner up and second runner up students and Yangon Region Education Department Deputy Director General Daw Khin Mar Swe presented awards to five consolidation prize winners of middle school level story telling contest.

U Thein Swe secretary of Alumni Association of Saint Paul's School awarded the first, first runner up and second runner up winners and U Aye Kywel Deputy Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department awarded the five consolidation prize winners of primary school level story telling contest.

Also, officials presented awards to the game winners at the festival. Football and Htote Si Htoe (border-crossing game) competition are also to continue.

A total of 58 students are to take part at the ad-lib contest which will be held today, it is learnt.

At the evening, Saint Paul's School alumni singers, Myanmar Peace Music Festival award winning singers and guest singers entertained the audiences to the accompaniment of Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) music band at the Children's Literature Festival.

Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) music band will entertain from 4pm to 8pm today, the final day of Children's Literature Festival.—Aung Min Han ■

Director-General of IPRD U Ye Naing presents awards to a good storyteller. **PHOTO: MNA**

in Picture

Daingnet people of Rakhine State celebrating their national day commemorative festival with traditional songs, dances and music at Meegyoungswe village in northern Butheedaung Township on 7 January.
(NEWS ON PAGE 1)

Children get free food at Literature Festival

Many donors were seen providing free meals to children and parents at the Children's Literature Festival in Botathaung Township, Yangon, on January 6.

Amae Eain (Mom's House), a private high school and a boarder's school, offered 20 types of food for free. Their menu included rice sprinkled with oil, steamed sticky rice, mont pyar talaet (a small pancake-like rice snack) and htantee mote (small yellow snacks made from toddy palm fruits).

Other generous donors included the St. Paul School's alumni, who offered mote hingar, custard bread, gelatin juice and shwe yin aye (a liquid-based desert). The National League for Democracy's branch in the township also offered chicken porridge to all the parents and children at the Festival.

Some notable brands also gave away their products as free food, noticeably NagarPyan tea leaves, Premier Coffee, Mar Mar noodles and Alpine bottled water.
—Ommar, Sandi ■

Children visiting the Literature Festival enjoying free food.
PHOTO: MNA

Children enjoying a games at Literature Festival in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Over 4,900 children participate in literature festival games

Some 4,918 children took part in various games on the second day of the Children's Literature Festival, which was held yesterday at Basic Education High School No. 6 Botahtaung, Yangon.

To sharpen the children's brainpower, individual and group games were organised at the festival.

In the individual competitions, some 415 children took part in the toy construction competition, along with 540 children in Go Proverb, 638 children in origami, 867 children in colouring, 116 children in storytelling and 372 children in house game competitions.

Also, 1,970 children took part in the group competitions.

Additionally, some 300 children attended the literary talk and panel discussions.
—Aung Min Han ■

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker opens new concrete road in Myawady, Kayin State

THE Thuwunnashlan new concrete road was officially opened during a ceremony in Myawady, Kayin State, yesterday morning.

At the opening ceremony, an official from the township Development Committee provided a short briefing about the road, while a senior citizen from the town gave a speech thanking the authorities for the new concrete road.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Kayin State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Chit Khin, Pyithu Hlutaw representative U Sein Bo, a director of the Kayin Development Department, a district administrator and the Chairman of the Township Development Committee, formally cut the ribbon to open the road.

Next, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker watched the dance performances of the students and gave them cash prizes.

The concrete road, built at a cost of MM Ks26.15 million, is 22 feet wide and 570 feet long.—Htein Linn Aung (IPRD) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than opens new concrete road in Myawady on 7 January 2018. **PHOTO: HTEIN LINN AUNG (IPRD)**

Union Minister U Win Khaing, and responsible officials pose for documentary photo. **PHOTO: MNA**

Second Engineering Council formation ceremony launches in Yangon

WITH the aim of developing the Engineering sector in Myanmar, the second, or new, Myanmar Engineering Council was established with the selection of the council's member at its office in Yangon yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing, and responsible officials from Myanmar Engineering Council.

During the ceremony, Union Minister U Win Khaing said the council approved 60 members under rules and laws, and the chairman, vice-chairman and secretary were elected from these 60 member.

The Union Minister also explained the Duties, Ethics and Code of Conduct to be followed by each and every member, saying council members should aware of "Conflict of Interest" and should strive to implement the aim of the council and to fulfill the requirements of inter and intra national Engineers.

The Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Engineering Council Dr. Nyi Hla Nge dealt with the improvement of the sector of Myanmar Engineering, the ongoing procedure of the Council to gain success, and the welcoming of new generation to implement the development of the nation.

Then, the newly elected council members took the oath.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Chin State Chief Minister vows to conserve natural beauty of Chin State

IN his New Year's speech for 2018, Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Lwal said he would emphasise conservation efforts to protect the rhododendron and cherry plants in the state.

The Chief Minister also said that this year, the focus would be on conserving the different flora and fauna of Chin State, such as the toucan, and other rare birds. Additionally, he said there would be greater efforts to promote the literary culture and traditions of the Chin people.

The two flowers bloom from November to April each year and create a very large tourist attraction. However, the flowers are plucked or entire trees chopped down by admirers. Certain conservation groups have voiced their concerns and pressed for greater environmental protection.

U Hlaing Aung, Chairman of the Kennedy Sein Lann So Pyay Association, said that his group has been distributing pamphlets informing the public about how to save these precious flowers. "We planted two kinds of plants on Mt. Kennedy and the Laytar mountain range," said U Hlaing Aung. "We need to effectively combat vandalism of these plants."

U Hlaing Aung noted that even though the Forestry Department has put up signs warning against the chopping down of trees, daily incidents of branches or entire trees being chopped down are common. Youths from Mindat and Kanpalet towns have been hanging signs in many urban and rural areas, calling for the preservation of the natural environment.—Zoe Haysar ■

File photo shows natural beauty of Chin State. **PHOTO: ZOE HAYSAR**

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR
Mark Angeles,
markrangeles@gmail .com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS
Khin Maung Oo,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com

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

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

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

REPORTERS
May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM
Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

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

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

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

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

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

Persons holding over Ks2 million in CHDB can apply for low-cost apartment

PERSONS holding more than Ks2 million in savings at the Construction and Housing Development Bank (CHDB) can apply to purcahse a unit at Shwelinpan in Hlaingthaya Township and Kanaung Low-cost Housing in Dagon Seikkan Township starting from today, according to a recent announcement from the Urban and Housing Development Department.

Interested buyers can apply from 8 January at Yangon Region Urban and Housing Development Department.

Previously, those who had deposited 30 per cent of the apartment's value as down payment, have a regular income and could afford to make the monthly payment, were entitled to apply to buy the low-cost apartments, developed by the Rural and Housing Development Department under the Construction Ministry. The department has now scaled down the payment rate to 20 per cent, with the remainder to be paid under a long-term mortgage plan.

Low-cost housing project at Dagon Seikkan Township. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Those who want to buy apartments under the installment plan linking with CHDB, have to open a housing saving account, with an initial deposit of Ks10,000. They can purchase a low-cost housing unit at Shwelinpan, Yuzana, Kanaung housing from Dagon Seikkan Township and Myayinanda from Mandalay. The monthly saving amount has not been set, but holders need to make their monthly deposit, depending on their income. They can also enjoy 8.5 per cent of the interest rate. – Ko Khant ■

Automobile entrepreneurs want Yangon Region government to allow night parking at car dealing stations

May Thet Hnin

FOR the second time, Myanmar Automobile Purchase and Sales Enterprise (Yangon) will call for a night parking facility at car dealing stations, said U Aung Than Win, chairman of this enterprise.

Now, only three markets — Hlaing, Thanthumar and Thirimingalar — are allowed parking from 6 am to 6 pm.

"We have submitted the request. The Yangon City Development Committee has responded by saying that some cars would be stuck at stations on account of the night parking permit. Now, those cars are found to be parked at the side of the street the whole night, while the car dealing stations are packed with cars entering to park at the station in the morning, prompting us to submit a request to the Yangon Region Chief Minister again. If this problem is not resolved, we will proceed to the State Counsellor. We also have a plan to go on strike," said U Aung Than Win.

"The car terminals host 2,500 cars daily. There are some 5,000 cars on the roads of Kyaukmyaung area of Tamwe Township, South Okkalapa Township, North Okkalapa Township, South Dagon Myothit Township, Mingaladon Township, Insein Township, Thaketa Township, and the Myaynigon area of Sanchaung Township. We want the government to set up a terminal for the parking of those cars", he said.

Parking of vehicles on the public roads leads to unnecessary traffic congestion. If the government establishes a terminal for these cars, it will get revenue," said U Aung Than Win. "Hlaing station, where cars are allowed to be parked during the daylight hours, is spread over 11 acres. We will request the regional government to grant approval for the construction of a five-storey car station on those acres," he added.

"If there is a single spot for car dealing, the market is likely to be more stable, and cars will no longer need to enter and exit the station. The government should implement this at the earliest, similar to other foreign countries", said Ko Ayaykyo, a car dealer.

Previously, Hanthawaddy and Minyekyawswar stations were being used for day parking. The parking has now been moved to the three authorised stations. ■

Myanmar-ROK trade exceeds $458 million in current FY

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea (ROK) was valued at over US$458 million this financial year, according to the monthly statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the first seven months of this fiscal year (FY), Myanmar's exports to the East Asian country reached $175 million, while its imports topped $283 million.

Bilateral trade, just in October, was over $56 million, including over $154 million in exports and $247 million in imports.

Myanmar imports cosmetics, food products, electronic equipment, mobile devices and other goods from South Korea, and exports agricultural products, including cashew nuts, mangoes, rice, beans and pulses.

The trade between the two countries last fiscal year was valued at $866 million.

The trade between the two nations was $666 million in 2011-2012 FY and $623 million in 2012-2013 FY. The external trade with ROK reached a record high of nearly $1.6 billion in 2013-2014 FY. Trade between the countries declined to $862 million in 2014-2015 FY and $656 million in 2015-2016 FY. —Shwe Khine ■

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

The high price of global gold prices have caused domestic gold prices to soar up. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Gold price bounces back after three weeks

May Thet Hnin

THE price of domestic gold price has increased from Ks915,000 to Ks938,000 per tical (0.578 ounce) since the second week of December.

The increase in price has been attributed to the high price of gold in the global market. Transactions in the domestic gold market have been continuing regularly, said U Aye Cho, a public relations officer at the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

The price gap between international and domestic gold prices remains some Ks10,000.

Since April, the gold market has witnessed fluctuations. The price of pure gold reached above Ks900,000 per tical in July. Gold price was on the rise in early September. In the middle of September, it reached an all-time high price of over Ks957,000 per tical, when the global gold price hit US$1,348 per ounce. Shortly thereafter, the price of gold began a downward trend.

The prevailing gold price in the domestic market has now reached the November 2017 price. Last year, the global political climate and high foreign exchange rate resulted in the fluctuation of global gold prices. The domestic gold price continues hovering on the high side, despite a slip in the market, said gold entrepreneurs.

Further, the number of gold transactions last year dropped by half, compared with the previous years, said U Ohn Myaing, secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association. ■

Rice export by sea increased to over 33,800 tonnes

THE export by sea of rice between Myanmar and international trade partners increased to 33,856 tonnes in the third week of December, with an increase of 13,863 tonnes, as against the previous week before 23 December, the Commerce Ministry reported.

Of the total, 20,000 tonnes of Emahta rice was destined for the Ivory Coast during the week.

Between 17 and 13 December, the country sold white rice and parboiled rice to overseas buyers, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Russia, China, South Africa and European states, earning US$10.825 million.

From 8 to 16 December, the country sold 19,993 tonnes of rice to foreign trade partners by sea. According to the ministry's statistics, the country also exported 6,530 tonnes of broken rice to partner countries, comprising 125 tonnes to Viet Nam, another 125 tonnes to Sri Lanka, 50 tonnes to Singapore, 1,300 tonnes to Senegal and over 4,930 tonnes to European countries. When compared with the previous week, the export of broken rice increased by 3,926 tonnes.

China and Bangladesh also imported rice and sticky rice from the nation's borders. During the third week of last month, the two countries imported 59,869 tonnes of rice and sticky rice, valued at $20.759 million.—Khine Khant ■

Trade with China from Kengtung bord er decrease in current FY

MYANMAR-Trade with China through the Kengtung border point showed a decline in value of over US$2 million during the current financial year, according to the weekly statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

This year saw a decline in value of bilateral exports and imports at the Kengtung station. Exports decreased by $1.304 million, in comparison with last year's total of $1.511 million, while imports were $1.239 million, in total, indicating a decline of $0.854 million over the last FY.

Between 1 April and 22 December of this year, trade between the two countries from five cross-border gates totalled $4.504 billion, including $1.446 million from the Kengtung border trade camp.

Myanmar and China continue to conduct trade through five cross-border points of entry at Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpaiktee and Kengtung.

China imports rice, corns, melons, herbal plants and other agricultural products from borders, and exports motorcycles, electric devices, cosmetics, medicine and personal products.—Shwe Khine ■

Children's Literature

Visitors observe a booth of a private high school.

Children participated in games and activities at the festival. **PHOTO: MNA**

Children taking part in Htote Si Htoe(boder-crosing game) at the festival.

An indoor swimming pool for kids at the festival.

Young children dancing at the festival.

News and Photo: Ohma/ Sandi

A large number of visitors, including parents and students, thronged the Children's Literature Festival and book exhibition yesterday, on the second day.

As it was a Sunday, the former Saint Paul's High School (now BEHS No 6), the venue of the festival, saw more visitors than on the opening day.

"More people visited the festival today. Since 7 am, huge groups of teachers and students from the state schools and private schools have been pouring into the venue. The sports activities and games at the festival have made it more attractive, especially for children," a teacher said.

Daw Kyin Than, an official of the Information and Public Relations Department, who is also in-charge of the origami contests, explained its rules. The interesting part of this Japanese art is the creation of the paper figures without using any glue. It is open to all children, he said.

Apart from the origami contest, the festival is also conducting other activities, such as storytelling, impromptu talks, poem recitation, and colouring and drawing of pictures with artists.

Moreover, there are also interesting games, including team-building games, threefold walking, collective walking, golf scoring, jigsaw puzzles and open-air games, such as football and htok-hsee-toe, a traditional game for children.

"We have booths on chemistry, physics, biology and mathematics to draw the interest of the students. They are eager to take part in the scientific experiments. I am glad ILBC could participate in the festival. We are ready to participate in future festivals," an official of the private school said.

A parent added, "I took around my son for shows on the systematic garbage disposal system of the Township Development Committee, the traditional elephant dance, as well as to the science booths of schools. In my view, this kind of festival is beneficial and important for the nation's progress."

Further, a person in charge of the programmes said, "Our entertainment programmes provide knowledge about the benefits of reading and doing physical exercises in the traditional way. We guarantee more efforts in the coming festivals." The literati also held talks on the creation of cartoon characters, books for children and school library development. The entertainment programmes begin at 9.30 am and end at 8 pm daily. ■

Visitors of the literary festival were entertained with a traditional dance performance.

Onlookers observe a booth with cutout images at the second day of the literary festival.

Festival sees more visitors

Children performed songs and dances for the audience on the second day of the Children's Literature Festival.

Daw Moe Moe.

Dr. Daw Khin Than Nwe.

Children and adults alike browse through the book stalls at the festival.

Students at the second day of the Children's Literature Festival look through the book stalls.

Daw Khaing Mar Oo.

Students participate in a story telling competition at the festival.

Children and youths compete in a drawing and colouring competition.

Ko Phyo.

Transparent initiatives of Central Bank of Myanmar

IT goes without saying that the Central Bank of Myanmar plays an important role in managing the national economy. According to the Central Bank of Myanmar Law 2013, new Members of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Myanmar including the Deputy Governor of the CBM were appointed in July 2017. Following that, news media acknowledged that performances of the CBM became more transparent. It is the good news for the national economy.

Since July 2017, the notification describing that extra disbursement more than the amounts of loans to entrepreneurs granted by banks was granted up to 3 years was issued as a staff memorandum. So, the said staff memorandum was not known by ordinary people. Yet, after appointing new members of the BOD in the CBM the memorandum was made known to the people. This is the first-ever launched initiative to improve public relations by the CBM.

> The instruction issued by the CBM on November 30 is in fact a driving force for the people to effectively use e-mobile banking. Just by examining the two instructions we can truly appreciate the CBM's transparent initiatives as they will be good for the people and the country.

Previously, entrepreneurs found it difficult in managing to run their businesses in the long run as they had to pay back the loans borrowed from banks with interests combined, within a year. Now that the businessmen are to repay the extra disbursement loans only after a 3 year period, it will make the outlet wider for debtors to easily operate their works. Extra disbursement loan means the increased loans by accruing interest over interest as interest to be paid regularly cannot be paid back after taking out the granted loan. The major aim of the memorandum is in fact granting the debtors to pay back the loans within 3 years. It is a welcome initiative that the positive memorandum was publicized just after being issued as a staff memorandum.

On 30th November 2017 as well, the Central Bank of Myanmar publicized an instruction on the e-mobile banking system in which e-mobile banking was designated in 3 steps with each individual step described in a very clear manner. Thus, it will be very easy for the public to use e-mobile banking. The instruction issued by the CBM on November 30 is in fact a driving force for the people to effectively use e-mobile banking. Just by examining the two instructions we can truly appreciate the CBM's transparent initiatives as they will be good for the people and the country. ■

Building a Democratic Nation by Agreeing to Differ

By Thein Tun (IR)

MYANMAR'S democratic transition changed again from 2017 to 2018. During the seven year-period of democratic transition starting from the year 2011, changes made nationally or individually have been thoroughly pondered. With the changes at the national- level, it is assumed that we, the national populace, need to change our individual minds and attitudes in accord with democracy standards.

Nature of the world

Our natural world exists in its balance, that is, between the two extremes—positive and negative, heat and cold, darkness and light, height and depth, new and old, good and evil, justice and injustice, win and failure, right and wrong and give and take. This can be said to be the fundamental principles of the natural world. Similarly, animate, inanimate and material things existing in the natural world comply with the nature of the world. Out of the balance the world cannot exist for long. We can easily find that the two extremes control themselves to survive.

Human society, a part of the natural world does in the same way, finding it difficult to live against the nature of the world. Living upon excessive selfishness, ego and personal interests can last for a while. "Give and take" is closely related. Had anyone laid stress on one of the two extremes, he will surely be outcasts.

Ingrained attitudes

Being worldly beings, it is difficult for us to live against the nature of the world. We must abide by the social or civil ethics and disciplines. As regards the extent we ourselves changed our minds and attitudes in accord with ethics and disciplines we have assessed the actualities of Myanmar's politics.

System changes include the entire national machinery such as political, administrative and management systems. In changing systems, it is difficult to promptly achieve the perfect change just by changing the national administrative system. Accordingly every individual needs to essentially change in accord with the changing system by abiding by ethics and disciplines individually. Had we wanted a high-speed train it would be impossible just by changing a high-speed locomotive. We are required to change coaches into high-speed ones.

Democracy is the system that every person themself must accept and act. How much effort we exert to change into an excellent system it will still be difficult for us to reach the goal of democracy until we exercise democratic practices. That means, we must exercise the democratic practices ourselves provided that we want to achieve the democracy. Democracy has individual and public rights as well as their respective responsibilities. In addition, democracy has the right for every individual to agree to differ as well, with mutual respect. This is totally different from the principle of regarding those with different ideas to be the foes. Here we must note that agreeing to differ is not freedom to insult or make abusive language. It needs decorum or polite approach.

Until now, in Myanmar society there still can be ingrained attitudes seen. In fact, it is completely different from the right path now we are marching. The solution which is acceptable to the majority should be sought after making consultations with each other, accepting different ideas. Each and every one of us should correct self-orientated egoism with our own conscientiousness. We firmly believe that egoism is the greatest hindrance at such a time when we are building up our federal democratic nation.

We should have noticed that our country is facing with many challenges in politics, economy, social affairs, religions and international affairs. Now is the time when we must solve these challenges, hand in hand with each other. In doing so, we, all taking part in the transitional campaign are required to bear mutual understanding and spirits of making compromises in our mind. We the people are the ones who will step up our performances more quickly, simultaneously being the ones who can make hindrance of our performances. In other word, the fate of the country is really in our hands.

Under the current situations we have noticed that whenever an event occurred cracks are happening one after another amongst the people. I thought as to whether the disagreements were caused in a usual way or in a self-orientated approach. It is possible to find solutions about the disagreements caused in the former way. Finding solution about the disagreements caused in the later way is impossible, and the solution to be achieved will be contradictions between both sides—win and lose, lose and lose. It is sure that the solution will not be the one we expected. For achieving the solution the majority expected, first of all, we must amend our ingrained attitudes.

Acceptance of differences/ agreeing to differ

We had learnt and recited in schools—"We will try our best to become ourselves to be well-developed, and thence to become our schools, our country well-developed." Only if we have developed ourselves, can our school, our town and our country be developed. Otherwise, our solemn vows will be imaginary ones.

If we are really desirous of achieving democracy, we are required to live in accord with the democratic system so that what we want will be achieved. Urgently needed are mutual respects and negotiations. Failing that what we want will retreat surely. In correcting a person's attitudes and habits it will take time. It is impossible to amend wicked minds all of a sudden. Undeniably, we are not accustomed to democracy practices. A successful candidate who passed his matriculation can become a graduate within several years. Our system change had already passed 7 years. During the period, how far did our individual change reached in distance. If we expected for others' changes others as well did likewise.

Though we are taking part in the system change we will be far away from mutual understandings and respects if we neglect civil ethics and disciplines, hoping for democratic rights. Now let us welcome the New Year 2018 while building up a democratic society by agreeing to differ. ■

Translated by Khin Maung Oo

> "We will try our best to become ourselves to be well-developed, and thence to become our schools, our country well-developed." Only if we have developed ourselves, can our school, our town and our country be developed. Otherwise, our solemn vows will be imaginary ones

> Living upon excessive selfishness, ego and personal interests can last for a while. "Give and take" is closely related. Had anyone laid stress on one of the two extremes, he will surely be outcasts

Myanmar works for sustainable tourism development

By Feng Yingqiu

MYANMAR'S Second Vice President U Henry Van Thio recently called for exploring sustainable tourism development plan, stressing the need to create new tourism routes and attractions and to combine innovation with its abundant natural resources to create more choice for tourists.

U Henry Van Thio, who is also Chairman of the Central Committee for the Development of the Natural Tourism Industry, urged for laying down systematic plan for developing the tourism sector.

"Despite the abundance of natural scenery and tourist attractions, the number of visitors to Myanmar still remained below expectation," he said.

While promoting Myanmar to the world as a place of interest, he emphasized the need to provide convenient and safe services and safe food to visitors.

He highlighted the points including the availability of visa-on-arrival, direct international flights and visa-free entry to nationals of targeted countries.

President of Myanmar Tourism Federation U Yan Win suggested that the government supply funds for tourism development, open border entrances and give visa exemption to visitors from member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as from China, Japan and South Korea.

According to statistics, more than 2.9 million foreign tourists visited Myanmar in 2016 and as of the end of October 2017, the figure stood at 3.1 million, an year-on-year increase of 20 percent.

Myanmar expects 3.5 million tourist arrivals in 2017.

In accordance with the theme of the world tourist organization of last year, which is "Sustainable Tourism -- a Toll for Development," Myanmar has adopted a policy of sustainable development of tourism.

Myeik Archipelago in southern Tanintharyi region, made up of more than 800 islands, is attractive for eco-tourism, such as hiking, bird watching, diving, trekking and snorkeling.

The visitors also used to enjoy sightseeing trips on luxury motor boats.

However, visitors are banned from touching natural coral reefs and taking the shells of sea snails.

According to the tourism authorities, nine local and foreign companies have been granted to build more hotels on 12 islands of Myeik, expecting 200 more hotel rooms to be added in the current open season.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's Tourism Federation has called for preserving Indawgyi Lake, the country's largest fresh water lake northernmost Kachin state, also a heaven for birds, to promote eco-tourism.

Visitors were exploring the area by boat or on hikes or bikes.

Myanmar is also striving for enlisting Bagan as one of the world's cultural heritages lying in the central part of the country with thousands of religious edifices and pagodas.

Cooperation is being made with intellectuals and technicians for the maintenance of Bagan, which has over 3,000 Buddhist temples, monasteries, stupas and monuments.—Xinhua ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT IN HEALTH RESEARCH

Dr. Aung Soe @ Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent

RESEARCHS all over the world are conducted by qualified people who have experience in clinical trials and the skills needed for any new procedure being investigated Same is in Myanmar.

The perceived benefits of the new treatment should outweigh the possible risks or side effects. All medicines have side-effects. They usually become obvious in very early studies in animals and human volunteers. Comparisons with drugs of similar chemical structure already in use also give clues to undesirable reactions.

In the simplest form of a clinical trial, one group of patients (called the treated group) receives the drug. A second control group receives the current standard drug for the particular disease. In some trials, a third control group will receive a placebo-an inactive substance.

Placebo controls may replace the second group. Patients do not know if they are taking a placebo or medicine.

Patients are allocated to a test or control group randomly. The whole trial is now called a randomised controlled trial.

Better organised trials are "blinded" __ neither the doctor nor the patient knows which group the patient belongs to. This prevents any bias in the way the patient and investigator respond to the treatment.

When it reviews a protocol, the IRB first has to study various issues in the interests of patient safety and well-being.

It is up to investigators to see if adverse reactions could cause physical or mental distress, and to make sure a patient is not given a treatment known to be inferior to established therapies.

Safety is paramount. The IRB examines the available information on the properties and history of use of the new drug. This includes whether it has been tested vigorously in the laboratory and, where appropriate, in cell cultures, animals as well as preliminary studies in people.

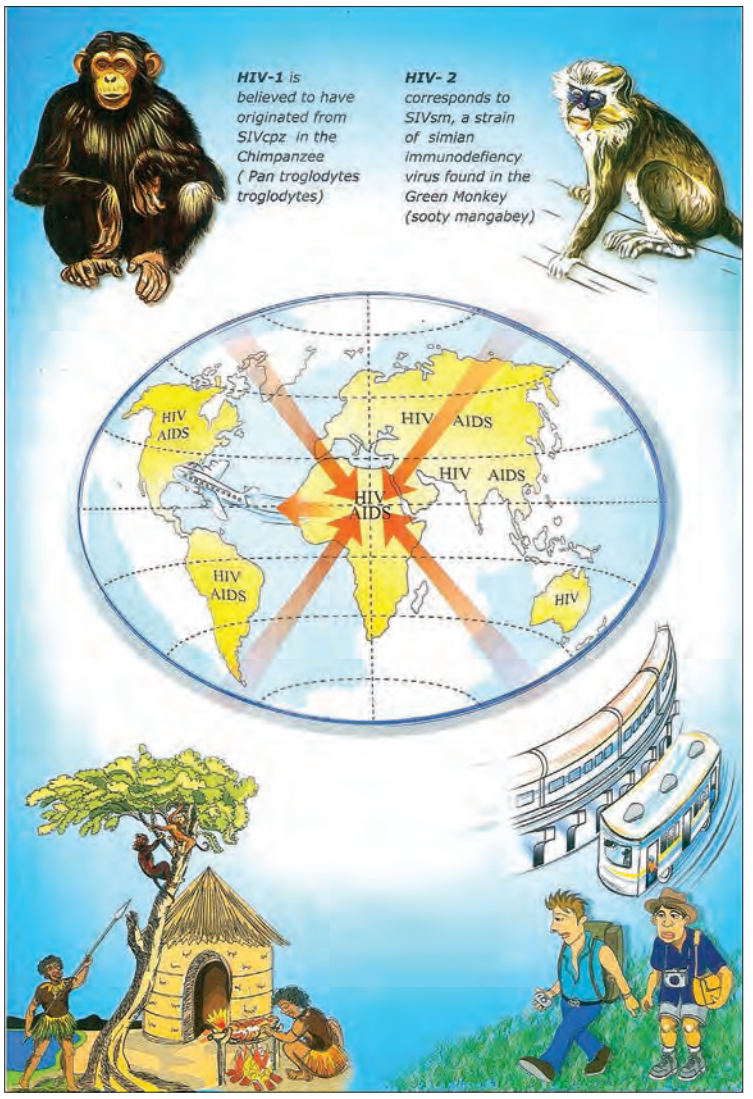


Illustration Concerning HIV Research.

Another consideration is the recruitment of subjects. How do the doctor and his team plan to recruit patients? Who actually recruits, and where will recruitment take place? What are the criteria for deciding who takes part in the trial?

Researchers must adopt rules at the outset of a study on when to stop when certain agreed outcomes are reached. Commercially initiated trials often employ data and safety monitoring boards to oversee the way a trial progresses.

This may lead to a trial being stopped because patients in one group are doing far worse than others.

Finally, there should be a patient information sheet that fully and objectively explains all relevant aspects of the trial in such a way that if the patient consents to participate, that consent is given freely.

Enrolling a person as a research subject is justified only if that person, or someone authourised to act on his behalf, understands the process and consents in writing.

It is important to realise that obtaining consent is a continuous process rather than a single event that ends with the signing of a form. If conditions affecting the trial change for instance, because of fresh evidence of the medicine's efficacy the patient must be informed. Depending on the nature of the new findings, authorisation by the patient to continue in the trial may have to be renewed.

Special attention is paid to obtaining informed consent from vulnerable patients who may lack the ability to make informed choices, such as children and the mentrally handicapped.

Patients must be told the facts in simple, non-technical language. These generally include the purpose of the research and the procedures involved, including the randomisation process.

The possible benefits to the patient and to medical science must be explained, together with the foreseeable risks, discomforts and inconveniences.

Should blood, urine and tissue samples be taken, they must be told how frequently, as well as what happens to these samples, how they will be stored and for how long.

"The patient must also be informed that he is free to say no, or withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

He must be assured that all data will be kept confidential, unless required by law to be disclosed. "

Patient Information Sheets will also contain information on payment to compensate for travel, meals and inconvenience. The IRB ensures that financial inducement does not distort the judgment of the patient as to his participation.

Clinical research is essentially a communal venture, as members of our society are being asked to assist in research.

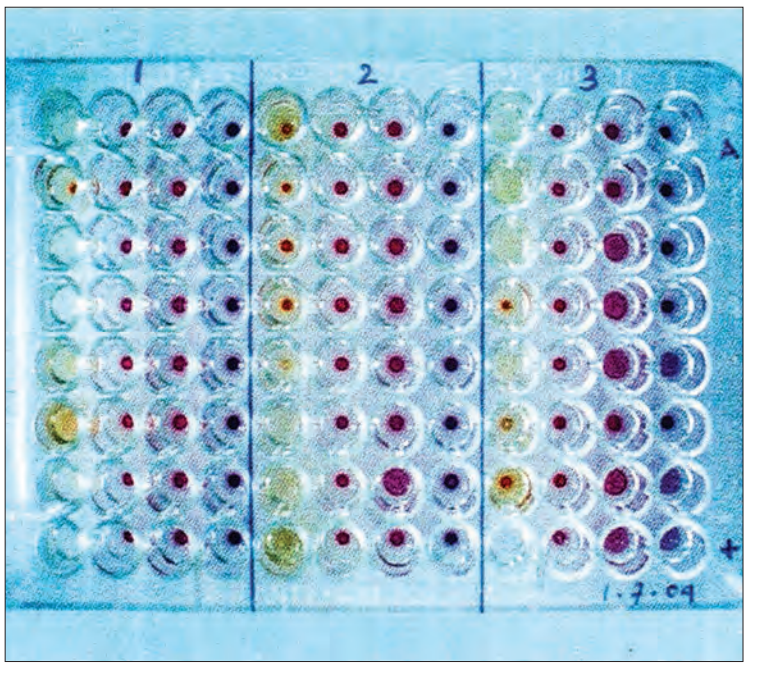
Researchers must regard those who register for the trials as partners. In this way they can work together with respect and candour to achieve their goals.

Research papers presented at the Myanmar Health Research Congress held annually could be considered as impact indicators of Research Capacity Strengthening (RCS) actions by Ministry of Health and sports. Opportunities prevail to exchange innovative ideas and experiences, new knowledge and technologies as regards priority research needs of the country. Knowledge gaps are filled considering ethical principles: informed consent, privacy and confidentiality. Stringent ethical review, peer review and technical review procedures are essential leading towards quality research proposals. Inter-sectorial coordination and wider stakeholder involvement let evidence-based research findings more convenient to utilize in improvement of policies and programmes.

It is very encouraging to note that a variety papers are to be presented and posters are to be displayed at 46th Myanmar Health Research Congress 2018. There is a wide range of good quality research works portraying the different disciplines of medical science as well as the various aspects of national health problems. We should congratulate to all the professionals for their energetic efforts in preparing the research papers and posters, to the national as well as the international professionals who made presentations at this scientific symposia. I sincerely hope that all these research findings are applicable to improvement of health status and further setting of new research agenda in line with national health priorities.

"It is very encouraging to note that a variety papers are to be presented and posters are to be displayed at 46th Myanmar Health Research Congress 2018. There is a wide range of good quality research works portraying the different disciplines of medical science as well as the various aspects of national health problems. We should congratulate to all the professionals for their energetic efforts in preparing the research papers and posters. "

Ref - Health-update, Ahmedabad, India 2016
- Straits Times 2-1-16



Illustrations concerning HIV Research - Internet.

U Aung Cho Oo accepts donations of rice sacks among other humanitarian aid for IDPs in Kyaukme. **PHOTO: MNA**

Humanitarian aid arrive for IDPs in Kyaukme

YESTERDAY in Aung Myay Thar Yar camp, cash donations and rice bags were donated to residents from Namsan and Maing Ngaw (in Shan State) who had fled their war torn homes to Kyaukme in Northern Shan State.

U Win Kyaw, Chairman of Palaung Self-administrative region's leading body, and U Maing Win Htoo, Hluttaw Representative of Namsan Township, and other donors gave humanitarian aid for the IDPs which were accepted by U Aung Cho Oo, the district Chief Adminstrator and other officials.

The donations from Palaung included a cash donation of 2,559,500 kyats, five sacks of rice and three bags of clothes.

The donations from Namsam included two cash donation of 1,240,000 kyats and 800,000 kyats. A donation from Naungcho's USDP included ten sacks of rice. —Kyaukme IPRD ■

Asia World Foundation responds to call by UEHRD and contributes not-for-profit road project in Rakhine

UNDER the directive of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) to provide humanitarian assistance, carry out resettlement and rehabilitation and work for development in Rakhine State, Asia World Company Ltd - through its charitable foundation Asia World Foundation - has responded to the call for public-private partnership towards this community effort. In line with its strong company culture towards community contribution as a responsible corporate citizen, the Foundation is committed towards delivering the not-for-profit road project from Angumaw to Maungtaw. With our local resources and fleet of machinery in the area, the teams have been hard at work on the 50-mile road project since December 2017. AWF is part of the Construction and Infrastructure Task Force, a major task force amongst the nine task forces under the UEHRD.

A billboard shows the area where the Asia World Foundation road project will be undertaken. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

In line with task force's objectives, AWF has taken the lead to rapidly organize its resources and donations to contribute its infrastructure and construction resources to this project.

After the completion of this road, transportation from Sittwe to Maungtaw will take a much shorter time, and this will bring about many benefits to the region. First, the new road will significantly cut down the travel time in transporting urgent supplies and materials to the region to aid in current redevelopment efforts.

In addition, the completed road is expected to facilitate smoother and more efficient movement of border trade, particularly since Maungtaw Border Trade Zone is one of the key border trade gateways which actively trades agricultural and industrial products throughout the year. With improved transport and accessibility, this also means the region will also benefit from more potential development, job creation, greater economic prosperity and improved living standards. AWF is proud to play a role towards the broader macro-economic plans for Rakhine state's development into a special economic and industrial zone in the future.

Asia World Foundation, a charitable non-profit organization, of Asia World Group of Companies. —GNLM ■

CRIME

2 arrested for smuggling forest products

THE police have arrested two men involved in the illegal smuggling of teak timber in Myitkyina Township in Kachin State, and confiscated 12.376 tonnes of timber, the police reported today.

Acting on a tip, police searched for a six-wheel truck driven by San Win Maung, also known as Ga Tone, 25, along with Soe Myat Tun, 19, on Sonparabon Road in Tatkhon Ward around 10 p.m. on Friday.

The police discovered some 9,658 teak timbers in the truck, worth Ks5.57 million and weighing 12.376 tonnes.

According to investigators, the truck driver lives in the industrial zone in Sitapu Ward in the same township. The township forest department is carrying out further investigations and seeking others connected with the case.

To prevent illegal logging and transport of hard woods, the forest department collaborates with the police, ward and township administrative offices and members of the public.—Win Naing (Kachinmye) ■

The confiscated teak timber is estimated to weigh around 12,376 tonnes. **PHOTO: MNA**

Police seize illegal substances worth Ks74 million in Khamti Township

WHITE opium powder and yaba pills, worth Ks74 million, were seized on Friday from a house in Khamti Township in Khamti District, Sagaing Region, according to a police report.

After receiving a tip from a member of the public, the anti-drug squad raided a house, which belonged to Win Ko and Min Min, in Hleudanmyoma Ward in Khamti Town around 10 a.m. on Friday. Police found a cache of white opium powder, weighing 260 grams, and 9,600 yaba pills in the house.

The two suspects have been charged with drug trafficking under Sections 15/1, 9 (a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

The township police are carrying out further investigations, to apprehed those involved in the case.—Win Oo (Zeyataing) ■

Win Ko and Min Min were caught with 260 grams of opium and over 9,000 yaba pills in their home. **PHOTO: MNA**

Trump says he would 'absolutely' talk to North Korea's Kim on phone

CAMP DAVID, (Md) — US President Donald Trump said on Saturday he would "absolutely" be willing to talk on the phone to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and that he hopes a positive development results from talks between North Korea and South Korea.

North Korea agreed on Friday to hold official talks with South Korea next week, the first in more than two years, hours after Washington and Seoul delayed a military exercise amid a standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes.

Trump, answering questions from reporters at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, expressed a willingness to talk to Kim but not without preconditions.

"Absolutely, I would do that," Trump said. "I have no problem with that at all."

Trump and Kim have exchanged insults ever since Trump took office, with Trump repeatedly calling Kim "rocket man" for testing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Earlier this week Trump dismissed Kim's taunt that the North Korean leader has a nuclear button on his desk, saying he has a bigger button.

A combination photo shows US President Donald Trump in New York, US, on 21 September 2017 and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang, on 4 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The talks between North Korea and South Korea are expected to cover the Winter Olympics, to be held in South Korea next month, and inter-Korean relations.

Trump suggested the talks might lead to an easing of tensions and took credit for the diplomatic breakthrough, saying it was a result of his steady pressure.

"Look, right now they're talking Olympics. It's a start, it's big start. If I weren't involved they wouldn't be talking at all right now," he said.

Kim "knows I'm not messing around. I'm not messing around. Not even a little bit, not even one percent. He understands that," said Trump.

"If something can come out of those talks, that would be a great thing for all of humanity, that would be a great thing for the world," he said.

On Sunday, North Korea announced a list of five officials who will represent Pyongyang, a day after South Korea confirmed its representatives, the South's unification ministry said.

The North's delegation will be led by Ri Son Gwon, head of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland that is usually tasked with dealing with South Korean affairs.—Reuters ■

Brutal cold snap stuns US East Coast after blizzard

BOSTON/NEW YORK — A shroud of bone-chilling arctic air covered the US East Coast and Midwest on Saturday, creating dangerous conditions as tens of millions of people struggled to clean up from a blizzard that dumped deep, drifting snow in many areas earlier this week.

Wind chill and freeze warnings stretched from New England to Ohio and Pennsylvania, while the National Weather Service warned of freezing rain in Missouri and areas to the northeast.

In some of those places, exposed skin could freeze within 30 minutes, said meteorologist Dan Petersen of the National Weather Service's Maryland-based Weather Prediction Center.

At the Whoopie Pie Cafe in Bangor, Maine, business was slow because of the cold, cashier and waiter Liz Gallagher, 58, said by phone. "Nobody goes out when it's really cold, at least I wouldn't," said the lifelong Bangor resident.

The cold snap complicated efforts by crews to clear snow and ice from roadways after the blizzard, which clobbered the Northeast after sprinkling snow in areas as far south as Savannah, Georgia and Tallahassee, Florida.

In New England and the Middle Atlantic states, the storm forced hundreds of schools to close and commuter rail services to suspend or reduce service.

Cold and snowy weather was blamed for at least 18 deaths in the past few days, including four in North Carolina traffic accidents and three in Texas.

"The magnitude of the cold and the area of coverage of the cold is really what's impressive to me," said meteorologist Ed Vallee, owner of Vallee Weather Consulting.

Killington, the famous Vermont ski resort, closed on Saturday even though snow conditions were excellent, saying wind chill on the slopes was at least minus 50 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 46 degrees Celsius). —Reuters ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION
DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGE
Invitation for Bids

Date: 12th January, 2018
Loan Agreement No.: MY-P15
IFP No: MYA/MOC/EWEC/PACKAGE1/PQ

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the East-West Economic Corridor Improvement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.
2. The Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction, Myanmar intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for Package-1, Construction of Gyaing Kawkareik Bridge.
3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in the beginning of April 2018.
4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries(All countries and areas), as defined in the Loan Agreement.
5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the office of Director General, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction from 10:00 hrs. to 14:00 hrs. on working days till 13th February, 2018.
6. A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested Applicant(s) on the submission of a written Application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 500 USD.
7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address above by 26th February 2018, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for East West Economic Corridor Improvement Project (EWEC) for Package-1, Construction of Gyaing Kawkareik Bridge.

U Shwe Lay
Director General
Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction
Building No.11, Nay Pyi Taw, MYANMAR
+95-67-407069, +95-67-407514
Email: mrshwelay@gmail.com, bridgesection.moc1@gmail.com

Iranian tanker collides with Chinese ship, spills oil

BEIJING — A tanker carrying Iranian oil and run by the country's top oil shipping operator was ablaze and spewing its cargo into the East China Sea on Sunday after colliding with a Chinese bulk ship, the Chinese government said.

The Sanchi tanker, registered in Panama, collided with the CF Crystal about 160 nautical miles off the coast near Shanghai on Saturday, the Ministry of Transportation said in statement.

The tanker's 32 crew members were missing.

It was sailing from Iran to South Korea, carrying 136,000 tonnes of condensate, an ultra light crude. That is equivalent to just under 1 million barrels, worth about $60 million, based on global crude oil prices.

"Sanchi is floating and burning as of now," the ministry said. "There is an oil slick and we are pushing forward with rescue efforts."

It had sent four rescue ships and three cleaning boats to site by 9 a.m. (0100 GMT), it added.

South Korea has also sent a ship and helicopter to help. A Korean Coast Guard official confirmed the tanker was still on fire at 1 pm (0500 GMT). He declined to be identified as he was not authorised to speak to the media. State media CCTV showed pictures of the tanker ablaze and billowing plumes of thick dark smoke.

The government gave no details of the size of the spill. Reuters ship tracking data shows Sanchi was built in 2008 and is managed by the National Iranian Tanker Co (NITC). Its registered owner is Bright Shipping Ltd. It was due to arrive at Daesan in South Korea from Kharg Island in Iran on Sunday, according to Reuters ship tracking.—Reuters ■

Chinese delegation introduces 19th CPC party congress in India

NEW DELHI — A Chinese delegation has introduced the achievements of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to political communities in India.

During the four-day visit that ended on Saturday, the delegation, headed by Meng Xiangfeng, deputy director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, met with leaders of the ruling Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP), the opposition Congress party and other left-wing parties.

The delegation briefed the Indian politicians and people from various communities in Delhi and Mumbai on the spirit of the 19th CPC party congress.

The India side spoke highly of the achievements and significance of the CPC congress, saying they were ready to join hands with China to further cooperation of mutual benefit, and promote healthy and steady development of bilateral ties, so as to contribute to peace, stability, development and prosperity in the region and the whole world.—Xinhua ■

Meng Xiangfeng (C), deputy director of the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), introduces the 19th CPC National Congress held in October 2017, in New Delhi, India, on 6 January 2018. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Ash-spewing volcano in Papua New Guinea forces villagers to flee

SYDNEY — A remote island volcano in Papua New Guinea has begun spewing ash into the air, forcing the evacuation of more than 500 residents, media and non-profit groups have said.

Kadovar Island, a 365-metre (1,197-ft) -tall volcano on the north coast of PNG, was thought to be dormant until it began erupting on 5 January.

"It's just a continuous emission of volcanic ash at the moment," Cheyne O'Brien, a forecaster at the Darwin Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre, told Reuters by telephone on Sunday.

The ash clouds have been thrown up steadily to a height of 2,133 meters (7,000 feet), forming a plume that is traveling west-northwest, he added.

The plume does not yet pose a hazard to aviation, but a change in wind direction could hit operations at PNG's Wewak airport, O'Brien said.

All residents of the island have been evacuated with no loss of life, US-based charity Samaritan Aviation, which operates seaplanes to remote areas of PNG, said on Facebook.

"We do not have any details yet as to where all of the families have gone and hope to have further information in the near future," the non-profit added.

Reuters could not immediately reach authorities in Papua New Guinea by telephone for comment.

The population of the island ranges from at least 500 to more than 600, media have estimated.

The eruption may become explosive, bringing a risk of tsunamis and landslides, domestic online media Loop PNG quoted the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory as saying.

There are no confirmed records of a previous eruption of Kadovar, said Chris Firth, a vulcanologist at Macquarie University, but scientists speculate it could have been one of two "burning islands" mentioned in the journals of a 17th-century English pirate and maritime adventurer, William Dampier. Dampier may have recorded the last eruption of Kadovar during a voyage in search of "Terra Australis", the southern continent once thought to be mythical, Firth said.

Vulcanologists are interested to observe its behavior now, Firth added.

"It's hard to predict what might happen, as there's nothing to compare it to."—Reuters ■

Rotor abnormality led to emergency landing of US chopper in Okinawa

NAHA, (Japan) — The US Marine Corps said Sunday one of its helicopters made an emergency landing on a small islet in Okinawa the previous day after "indications of the main rotor moving at too high a speed." None of the four crew members aboard was injured when the UH-1 helicopter landed on a sandy beach on Ikei Island. US military personnel continued checking the aircraft Sunday morning and removed the main rotor.

"We are grateful that... no one was hurt and no property was damaged. The Marine Corps will rigorously investigate the cause of the incident," a Marine Corps officer told Kyodo News.

The incident is the latest in a series of accidents and mishaps involving US military aircraft stationed in the southern prefecture of Okinawa, which hosts the bulk of US military forces in Japan. The helicopter that made the emergency landing belongs to US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on the main island of Okinawa. —Kyodo News ■

US servicemen move part of a UH1 military transport helicopter in Uruma, Okinawa Prefecture, on 7 January 2018, after the chopper made an emergency landing on a beach the previous day. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

SIAM CAST NYLON., LTD, a company organized under the laws of Thailand and having its principal office at 26/7 Moo 4 Samkoke-Sena Road, Bangsai, Pranakornsriayuttaya 13190, Thailand is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademark : -

PURE

Myanmar Registration Number. 4/8595/2005

Used in respect of :-

"Water purifier; water filter; water treatment; air purifier; air filter".

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.

Tin Ohnmar Tun, Tin Thiri Aung
Tin Ohnmar Tun & The Law Chambers Ltd
Ph: 09 265008833
Email:law_chambers@seasiren.com.mm
(For. Domnern Somgiat & Boonma,
Attorneys at Law, Thailand)
Dated. 8th January, 2018

Ethnic model crowned Miss Universe Viet Nam

HANOI — A 25-year-old model from the ethnic minority of Ede in Viet Nam's central Dak Lak province, won the top prize at Miss Universe Viet Nam 2017 Saturday night.

Brown-skinned H' Hen Nie, outdid 41 other contestants at the beauty pageant's final in central Khanh Hoa province to win a cash prize of 200 million Vietnamese dong (8,800 US dollars), a crown worth 2.7 billion Vietnamese dong (119,000 U.S. dollars), and the right to represent Viet Nam to attend Miss Universe 2018.

After performances in ao dai, Viet Nam's traditional long dress, swimsuit and evening gown, Nie answered the the judges' two questions about charity works and social networks. The 1.72-m girl currently works as a model in Ho Chi Minh City.

The first runner-up is Hoang Thuy, a 25-year-old model from central Thanh Hoa province, and the second runner-up is also a 25-year-old model - Mau Thi Thanh Thuy from Ho Chi Minh City. —Xinhua ■

Contestants attend the beauty pageant's final in Viet Nam's central Khanh Hoa Province, on 6 January 2018. H' Hen Nie, a 25-year-old model from the ethnic minority of Ede in Vietnam's central Dak Lak province, won the top prize at Miss Universe Viet Nam 2017 Saturday night. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Host Seth Meyers speaks onstage during the 66th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, California, US, in 2014. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Golden Globes — It's not who wins but who will say what

LOS ANGELES — The Golden Globes kick off Hollywood's countdown to the Oscars on Sunday, but the focus is expected to be less on who walks away with the top movie and television prizes than who says (and wears) what.

Magical love story "The Shape of Water" goes into the televised ceremony in Beverly Hills with a leading seven nominations, including best movie drama. It is followed by Steven Spielberg's passionate ode to press freedom "The Post," and dark indie comedy "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" with six apiece. All three movies are from the Twentieth Century Fox (FOXA.O) stable of studios.

But with a sexual harassment scandal roiling Hollywood, the most anticipated moments are on the red carpet and from host Seth Meyers, who will open the show.

"Lady Bird" star Saoirse Ronan, "I, Tonya" skating movie nominee Allison Janney, and actress and singer Mary J. Blige are among dozens of stars who say they will wear black on Sunday after throwing their support behind the Times Up campaign to fight sexual harassment in the workplace.

First-time Globes host Meyers has said he will address the sexual misconduct issue, but acknowledges that delivering jokes on the issue to Hollywood's A-list talent will prove a challenge.

"Fingers crossed we meet the right tone, but that's certainly our goal," Meyers said ahead of the three-hour show. "I'm looking forward to seeing what people do as much as you are."

Oprah Winfrey, one of the most powerful black women in entertainment, is expected to make waves when she accepts this year's lifetime achievement award. —Reuters ■

Stephen Fry steps down as BAFTA host

LONDON — Actor-comedian Stephen Fry has stepped down from hosting the BAFTA Awards after 12 years and is looking forward to watching the show in the comfort of his home.

The 60-year-old star took over hosting responsibilities back in 2001 — the year Ridley Scott's "Gladiator" won — and became a much-loved fixture of the UK awards ceremony. He had a break from hosting duties between 2007-11.

"Every one of the twelve BAFTA film award ceremonies that I had the privilege of hosting has a place in my memory. The mixture of glamour, glory, drama and — occasionally — embarrassment and hiccup holds a unique place in the British film calendar. Over the last two decades I have especially loved watching the emergence of new young film talent behind and in front of the camera.

"But after so long a time I felt it only right to stand down and let others take the BAFTAs on to new heights and greater glories. What fun it will be to watch BAFTA 2018 without my heart hammering, mouth drying and knees trembling," Fry said in a statement to BBC.

BAFTA thanked him for making the awards "such memorable and joyous occasions". A replacement will be announced on Tuesday, when this year's nominees are revealed.—PTI ■

Lawsuit against Weinstein for spying on Paz de la Huerta

LOS ANGELES — A lawsuit has been filed against Harvey Weinstein which claims that the disgraced Hollywood producer hired an attorney to spy on actor Paz de la Huerta.

In November last year, Huerta had alleged that Weinstein raped her twice in 2010.

The complaint claims that Weinstein hired attorney Michael F Rubin to gain information from Huerta, reported Variety.

Rubin apparently also discouraged Huerta to not press charges against Weinstein.

Huerta is represented by attorney Aaron Filler and his firm Tensor Law has filed the lawsuit.

In the lawsuit, Filler claimed that Rubin interfered with his contractual relationship with Huerta, depriving him his legal fees of USD 20 million. Rubin, however, has the dismissed the claims made in the lawsuit and said he has never met Weinstein.

"Every allegation in that lawsuit is false... I don't know Harvey Weinstein. I never met Harvey Weinstein. I had nothing but Paz de la Huerta's interests in mind. This guy is upset he lost a potential client," said Rubin. —PTI ■

Paris Hilton gets private security to protect engagement ring

LOS ANGELES — Socialite Paris Hilton has hired private security to guard her and watch over the two million dollar engagement ring she received from fiance Chris Zylka.

Hilton and "Leftovers" star Chris Zylka got engaged during a ski trip to Aspen, Colorado. Zylka presented her with a massive 20-carat ring.

The couple have security personnel shadowing them and specifically guarding the ring round-the-clock, sources close to Hilton told TMZ.

The security team, dressed in plain clothes, will be charged with protecting her, and her rock, at all times when she is on the go.—PTI ■

Yangon secured MFF Charity Cup 2018 by penalty shoot

YANGON United and Shan United played against each other for the MFF Charity Cup 2018 yesterday afternoon at the Aung San Stadium in Yangon.

Yangon United secured the Charity Cup 2018 by 6-4, including a penalty kick.

Both teams used their shining players from the kick-off. Shan's players were strong enough to show their early ability.

Even at the 12 minute mark, Shan United's new expatriate player Asare Patrick scored an icebreaker.

Shan United could dominate along the first half with showing their marvelous football skills.

In the second half, Yangon United changed their tactics with making some substitutions, including striker Emmanuel.

With the stronger attacking positions and football strategies, Yangon could make their equalizer at the 45 minute mark by striker Sekou Sylla.

As Shan United made a big mistake in the defensive line, Yangon got their leading goal at the 63 minute and the goal was scored by Sekou Sylla.

Nevertheless, Shan United showed came-from-behind ability and scored their equalizing goal at 68 minute mark by Asare Patrick.

There were no more goals by both teams till the final whistle and the penalty shoot was made to have a decisive result.

In the penalty shoot-out Yangon can score 4 and Shan just scored 2 and Yangon could bring happiness for its fans. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Champion Yangon United receiving the MFF Charity Cup 2018 given by MFF President U Zaw Zaw.
PHOTO: MNL

1,000 Shan United fans gains free admission to Charity Cup 2018

Taunggyi-based Shan United FC, the fiercely proud football representative of Shan State, arranged for 1,000 of its fans to watch the Charity Cup 2018 free of charge, yesterday afternoon at Aung San Stadium in Yangon.

In the MFF Charity Cup 2018 supervised by the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), Shan United played against Yangon United at 3:30 pm.

Yangon United secured the Charity Cup 2018 by 6-4, including a penalty kick.

The match was a much-anticipated contest, as both teams are well-known football powerhouses and hope to use the game as preparation for the AFC Champions League and AFC Cup 2018.

Shan United fans were invited to come to the stadium entrance on the left of the grandstand no later than 2 pm. The first 1,000 Shan United fans had the chance to be admitted free of charge.

Before the match, there were many entertainment programmes for the spectators.

As Shan United FC wore their all-red kits, the Shan fans are asked to wear red shirts or the red kits of Shan United to show their support, according to an official from Shan United.

"We are very happy as our Shan United arranges its fans to gain free admission and we will stand with our team whether we lose or win. Shan United played brilliantly but the luck is not on Shan", said Khun Kyaw Zeyya, Shan-Paoh ethnic who came and gave support to Shan United.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Makarova stuns Ostapenko in sweltering Sydney

SYDNEY — Ekaterina Makarova kept cool in the fierce Australian heat to upset the French Open champion and world number seven Jelena Ostapenko 7-6(3), 6-1 in the opening round of the Sydney International on Sunday.

Makarova, who reached the Australian Open semi-finals after stunning Serena Williams three years ago, rode an early break for a 5-3 lead and, even though her Latvian opponent got back to 5-5, raced away with the first set tiebreak.

Third seed Ostapenko, who also lost her opening match in Shenzhen last week, put up a fierce fight at the start of the second set but faded after losing her first service game and Makarova moved on to face Barbora Strycova or Daria Kasatkina.

"It was first match of the season so of course I was nervous at the beginning," said Makarova.

"But I tried to stay solid, to stay with my aggressive game, and it worked in the important moments."

With temperatures in western Sydney well above the 40 degrees Celsius mark, some withdrawals might have been expected and local Ellen Perez progressed when France's Kristina Mladenovic retired at 6-4, 4-2 down. German seventh seed Julia Goerges also withdrew from the tournament citing a knee injury having won the Auckland Classic earlier in the day. Venus Williams, Garbine Muguruza and Johanna Konta, the reigning champion, are all also in a strong women's field at Sydney's Olympic Park.

In the men's draw, twice former champion Viktor Troicki went out in the first round 6-3, 6-7(3), 7-5 at the hands of unorthodox Ukrainian Alexandr Dolgopolov.—Reuters ■

Barcelona agree to sign Coutinho from Liverpool — clubs

BARCELONA — Barcelona will sign Brazil midfielder Philippe Coutinho from Liverpool on a five-and-a-half year contract, the two clubs said on Saturday.

British media reported that the Spanish club will pay about 142 million pounds for Coutinho, making it the third most expensive transfer in soccer history.

"Barcelona and Liverpool have reached an agreement for the transfer of Philippe Coutinho," the La Liga leaders said in a statement.

"The player will sign a contract for the rest of the season and five more and will have a release clause of 400 million euros.

Liverpool confirmed the deal. "Liverpool FC can confirm Philippe Coutinho will be leaving the club after a transfer agreement was reached with FC Barcelona, subject to medical and agreement of personal terms," the Premier League club said.

"The player now has permission to complete the usual formalities to conclude the transfer immediately." —Reuters ■