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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 8 February 2018



Celebrating Shan State Day

Shan ethnic women perform traditional dance at the 71st annual celebration of Shan State Day at People's Park in Yangon yesterday.

PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

in
Picture

ASEAN expresses support for Myanmar

Foreign Ministers issue statement backing humanitarian relief programme in Rakhine State

ASEAN foreign ministers pledged their support for Myanmar's humanitarian relief effort in Rakhine State, according to the Union Minister for Interna-

tional Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Kyaw Tin, who returned to Nay Pyi Taw yesterday after attending the ASEAN Foreign Minis-

ters' Retreat held in Singapore on Tuesday.

In a statement issued by the ASEAN Chair, the ASEAN Ministers expressed their con-

tinued support for Myanmar's humanitarian relief programme in Rakhine State and welcomed the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance

on disaster management (AHA Centre)'s ongoing work with the Myanmar Government-led mechanism to deliver

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'BANK OF THE YEAR IN MYANMAR 2017'

Awarded by Financial Times (The Banker)

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses education sector

A proposal to open a comprehensive university in Nay Pyi Taw and other matters related to the education sector were discussed at yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw meeting.

U Tin Hla from Danuphyu Constituency raised a question about establishing a comprehensive university in Nay Pyi Taw. U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education, replied saying there were plans to construct a university, and the ministry was discussing with the Nay Pyi Taw council about selecting a site for the construction.

Next, U Sai Thiha Kyaw from Mongyal Constituency raised a question on what action the ministry of education would

take over 19 basic education schools in Mongyal Township, where the principal's chair had been lying vacant for half the academic year. U Win Maw Tun replied that the ministry has selected 11 principals for basic education primary schools in Mongyal Township, while the selection process for middle school principals started on 27 January this year, and is still in progress. The positions for principals in high schools across the country are being discussed, he said.

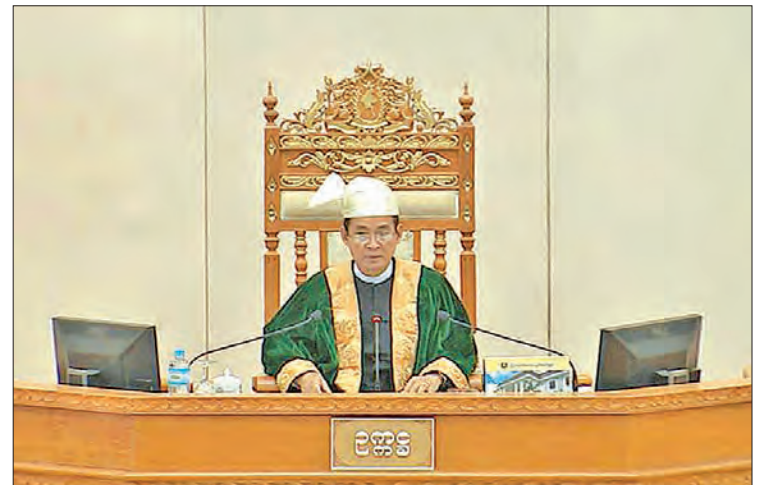
U Nyan Hein from Thanbyuzayet Constituency raised a question on whether the township education authorities would be given the right to grant permission to primary school

teachers to take leave from their school if it has less than 65 students, so they can take up teaching roles in other schools that need more teaching staff.

The Deputy Minister replied that this authority had already been granted to district- and state-level education authorities.

Later, U Aung Thaung Shwe from Buthidaung Constituency forwarded a motion urging the union government to develop effective plans for northern Rakhine's development and to share them openly with the public.

He cited the Constitutional Act (385), which states that it is every citizen's duty to protect the security and sovereignty of the nation, as well as Section (21)



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

(C), which states that it is every citizen's duty to uphold peace and the rule of law. Thus, he said it is necessary for the union gov-

ernment to collaborate with the public on matters of security and the rule of law.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Speaker, chairmen, secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw hold coordination meeting



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint addresses the coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

THE coordination meeting of the Speaker, Chairmen and Secretaries from the respective committees of Pyithu Hluttaw (1/2018) was conducted at Zabuthiri Hall in the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat, chairmen and secretaries of the committee of the Pyithu Hluttaw attended the meeting.

Firstly, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint gave the opening speech.

The officials then explained

the decisions made during the previous meeting (2/2016).

Later, the chairmen and secretaries from the respective committees of Pyithu Hluttaw stated and explained the bills, complaint letters, reports and evaluations.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint also explained tasks of the respective committees, the affairs to be coordinated or amended and concluded the meeting with his suggestions. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses protection of natural resources

THE 14th-day meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw continued yesterday. The MPs discussed questions, debated a bill and considered a motion.

First, U Hway Tin of Chin Constituency (11) raised a question on the project for building a sports building in Hakha, Chin State, and if it has been listed in the 2018-2019 financial year. Dr. Myint Htwe, union minister for health and sports, answered that a survey would be conducted to check if an additional sports building was needed in Haka.

Dr. Myint Htwe then answered a question raised by U Myo Htet from Chin Constituency (12) on constructing a new medical facility in Paletwa, Chin State. Dr. Myint Htwe replied

that the proposal for the medical facility had been submitted and was awaiting further instructions. Next, a motion from U Pe Chit from Yangon Constituency (9) was read. The motion urged the union government to prioritise the conservation and protection of Myanmar's natural resources.

Major Kyaw Soe Oo said smuggling of natural resources in the country was rampant. He said the laws concerning the protection of natural resources may need to be amended to be more effective. He pointed out that the improper usage of natural resources, such as unsystematic fishing, was slowly destroying the natural ecology of Myanmar, including its beautiful islands,

coral reefs, marine biomass and others. He said the union government needs to cooperate with the military, the public and other departments to carry out conservation plans effectively.

U Myint Naing of Rakhine constituency explained that Rakhine State used to produce natural gases, oil, teak and other hardwoods, as well as marine products and marble rocks. He said that the natural oil production in the area was low now, and teak forests have all but disappeared. He said more efforts must be made to conserve the forests and fishing areas near the Bay of Bengal. U Myint Naing said that a Viet Nam-Myanmar Joint Company was mining marbles in the area, and sug-



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

gested imposing proper restrictions and regulations on them. He said that while the country's gross domestic product may be rising, if left unchecked, no natural resources will be left for

future generations.

The speaker ended the session by announcing that the next session of the Amyotha Hluttaw will be held today.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

State Counsellor receives Hon. Robert Rae



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Hon. Robert Rae, former Ontario Premier of Canada, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Hon. Robert Rae, former Ontario Premier of Canada, at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 hrs yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters pertaining to bilateral relations and the latest development of the Rakhine State including the arrangements on repatriation process.—Myanmar News Agency

Outgoing Indonesian Ambassador calls on President U Htin Kyaw



President U Htin Kyaw receives outgoing Indonesian Ambassador Dr. Ito Sumardi. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received the Ambassador of Indonesia to Myanmar Dr. Ito Sumardi, who completed his tour of duty at the Presidential Palace at 3 pm in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, they discussed matters related to bilateral relations and promotion of cooperation between the two countries.

Also present at the call,

were Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for the President's Office U Min Thu, and other officials. —Myanmar News Agency

Vice President U Henry Van Thio continues Chin State tour

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who has been in Chin State over the last several days, visited Matupi Township General Hospital yesterday.

He toured the two extended patients' wards and two new faculty residential buildings that have finished construction. Dr. Thar Htun Kyaw, the Director-General of Public Health Department, and Dr. Kyaw Swar Lin, Chief of the District Health Department, explained the progress to the Vice President. The Vice President then signed the

hospital's guestbook and gave cash donations to patients.

The Vice President and his entourage then travelled to a guesthouse on Matupi-Mindat Road and were entertained with traditional dances from local residents.

He then inspected the site for the construction of Mindat College and was briefed on the progress by Deputy Speaker of Chin State Hluttaw U Aung Than and Director General Dr. Thein Win of the Department for Higher Education. The Vice



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the construction site of new Mindat Market. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Henry Van Thio provides the cash assistance to a patient at the Mindat District's General Hospital. **PHOTO: MNA**

President offered advice on the process of supplying clean water to local residents. The site for Mindat College was a collective donation from Mindat residents for the betterment of Chin State's education.

The Vice President then travelled to Mindat District's General Hospital and conferred cash donations to patients there. He then inspected the newly extended patients' wards and faculty residential buildings.

Next, they travelled to the construction site for the new Mindat Market. Chin State Minister Salai Isaac Khen and District Administrator U Soe Thein reported on the progress of the project to the Vice President.

The Mindat Market was burned down in an accidental 2016 fire and is now being reconstructed in a new location using funds from the National Reserve Fund and National Natural Disaster Fund. The

new market will be 150 by 127 feet wide and will include a two-storey building made with reinforced concrete.

Afterwards, the Vice President and entourage travelled by car to survey the expansion project of Mindat-Kanpetlet Road in progress.

Finally, they arrived at Win Unity Hotel in Kanpetlet and were welcomed with traditional dances from local residents. —Myanmar News Agency

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,
markangeles@gmail.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS

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

REPORTER

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

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM

Tun Zaw,
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

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gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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A man riding bicycle near the construction of the new Tharkayta Bridge which is expected to open in July, 2018 in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

New Thakayta Bridge to be opened in July

The new Thakayta Bridge connecting between Pazundaung and Dawbon townships is expected to be opened in July, according to an official of the bridge construction project.

The bridge will ensure better traffic for commuters and trading goods after the

completion of the project.

"It is the first bridge in Myanmar adopting Japanese style construction technique of bridges. When the project comes to completion, trucks leaving from Yangon-Thilawa port can also go through the bridge," said Mr. Kei Kasaha-

ra, in-charge of the project.

The project inaugurated in April 2015, and the construction of the four lane bridge cost approximating US \$ 32 million.

Meanwhile, the Department of Bridge under the Ministry of Construction has been building two flyovers that

cross over railways and road as well as extending the approach road in Dawbon side to four lanes.

When the project is fully complete, traffic congestion in Yangon is expected to be reduced.—Myanmar Digital News ■

71st Anniversary of Shan State Day commemorated in Pa'O Self-Administered Zone

The 71st anniversary of Shan State Day was commemorated in Pinlaung Township in Pa'O Self-Administered Zone of southern Shan State this morning.

At the ceremony, present saluted the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and

the flag of Shan State. Afterwards, Township Administrator U Nyein Htwe read the message sent by President U Htin Kyaw on the 71st anniversary of Shan State Day and deputy chief of Shan State Police Force Naw Lwin read the message sent by

Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut on the 71st anniversary of Shan State Day.

Likewise, the 71st anniversary of the Shan State Day were held in Kengtung and Minetung in eastern Shan State, Namhsam and Hopong in southern

Shan State and Tangyan Township in northern Shan State, Muse, Lashio, Mabein, Kunlong and Kutkai. The present were departmental officials, members of the ethnic literature and culture and social organization.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Fruits wholesale market project near Paleik will bring favorable chances to farmers

THE construction project of the fruit wholesale market close by Paleik town in Mandalay Region was commenced four years ago, it is complete only 15 per cent yet, according to the developers who are undertaking the project.

The project was started in 2014, and the foundation of the wholesale market and shop

houses were built so far.

"The wholesale market is the project of the previous government. We did a survey and found that wholesalers and vendors do not want to open their shops here because the location of the market is far from the city. That's why the construction project is slower," said U Ko Ko, vice chair of the Mandalay Region

Developers Association.

He added that the business of fruit growers will have better chance to choose the price in one place when the wholesale market is opened. They can keep their produce in the marketplace and shipping them when there is a buyer. "They can keep their fruits in cold storage rooms at the market until they meet with

traders. For e.g. Mango growers don't need to decide immediately on the price or throw away their mangoes any more. They just contact Chinese traders and negotiate for the price. After making a deal, they load a container truck to send to Muse. Traders will also get fresh and in good condition fruits," he explained.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Import value increases by \$2 billion nearly this FY

Myanmar's imports between 1 April and 26 January this fiscal year (FY) amounted to US\$15.1 billion, up by \$2 billion as compared with the same period last FY.

The government sector imported goods worth \$841 million, whereas the private sector imported goods worth \$14.2 billion.

Of the three import groups, raw industrial goods is mostly imported into the country with an estimated value of more

than \$6.07 billion, an increase of \$1.41 billion against last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry. The import of goods categorised in the two other groups — consumer goods and capital goods — also showed an increase in their trade value. The import of capital goods hit \$5.4 billion, while the import of consumer goods reached \$3.65 billion.

Chemicals, fertilisers, rubber raw materials, industrial paper products, cement,

rail machines and associated equipment, vehicles and auto parts, ships and ship machinery, tractors, mobile phones and telecommunication equipment, computers and electronic devices, construction tools, and wire appliances are imported into Myanmar through the border points and the sea route.

In the same period, the export value was \$11.4 billion. There is a trade deficit of \$3.7 billion as imports outdid exports.—Htet Myat ■

MIC's issues 8 permits, 3 endorsements in Feb meeting

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has decided to grant eight investment permits and three endorsements at its meeting on 2 February.

The eight investment projects include one foreign enterprise, three domestic enterprises and four joint ventures for the CJ Feed production of Hatchery, which is involved in developing an offshore supply base, manufacturing of polyester staple fibre, media content production and distribution, manufacturing of bathroom products and

accessories, hotel and serviced apartments and construction of integrated logistics and supply base. More than 870 job opportunities will be created from these enterprises.

Meanwhile, the three other investment proposals endorsed by MIC are for Layer Farm and sale of chicken, manufacturing and sale of lubricants, and private hotel services, which are expected to create 165 job opportunities.

The new Myanmar Investment Law has granted tax ex-

emption and relief to investors depending on developments in the regions and states. Investors in far-flung areas can enjoy a tax break for a maximum of seven years, depending on the zones.

According to the new Myanmar Investment Law, region and state DICA offices are authorised to give approval to investment proposals with capital not exceeding \$5 million (Ks6,000 million), with an aim to facilitate the verification process of investment projects.

—Ko Khant ■

Muse's wholesale fruit market teeming with customers

Buyers and sellers are happy with the one-stop service at the Muse wholesale fruit market, according to a report in City News yesterday.

Muse's commodity depots have united to form a public company to provide a one-stop facility for the trading of fruit. Buyers can choose from several fruit varieties and qualities from one spot itself. Similarly, growers also do not need warehouse facilities to store their goods. The flow of trade has become smoother as the growers do not need to find buyers. Also, they reap healthy profits, while trading takes place through

competitive bidding. Traders do not need to be concerned about fraudulent trading, as the wholesale market has made systematic arrangements for bidding on fruits.

Some 250 to 500 12-wheel trucks loaded with watermelon have entered this market. A kilogram of watermelon fetches less than 2 yuan, while muskmelon is worth more than 5 yuan. The watermelon season is from December to February. Some 600,000 tonnes of watermelon are expected to be sent to China this season.

This northeast gate compound helps accommodate

hundreds of trucks, facilitating trade. Muse records the largest trade among the 16 border checkpoints in Myanmar, carrying out border trade with China. Myanmar exports agro products such as rice, broken rice, fruits and vegetables, as well as pulses, livestock, fishery and minerals.

Exports to China surpassed imports this fiscal year (FY). The Muse border trade from 1 April to 26 January in the current FY reached more than US\$4.65 billion, including exports worth \$3.2 billion and imports worth \$1.39 billion.—GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း **"Sunday Special"** အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈)
ဖျက်နာမိလင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ



"Sunday Special"
အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) ဖျက်နာ
မိလင်သော

နေပြည်တော်
မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရွှေဘို (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊
သတင်းနှင့် စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊
စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၁၁၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)
ဓမ္မာပဒေသနာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၁၁၈၊ ၀၆၇ ၄၁၁၁၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊
ဗိုလ်ချုပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀ ၆၀၇၅၃၂၊ ၀၉၅၇၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

သန္ဓေလေး
လမ်း (၂၁ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၁၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲခွေ
ရောင်းရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃ ၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃ ၂၅၈၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၀ ၂၁၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ဈေးအနီး၊
မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃ ၂၃၇၁၂

တချိုင်းတော်
မြို့နယ် (၃-၁)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းဆုံ၊ မြို့နယ်လမ်း၊
ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄ ၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြန်မာ့အသံကားကွင်းအနီး၊
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃ ၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်းကြီးနား
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေချိုးကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊
မြင်းကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄ ၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရခိုင်တပ်မတော်နှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊
မိဆက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်မြို့ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃ ၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိမ်း၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊
(၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့ အဝေးရာလမ်း၊
လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ခြောက်
ဧကလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရမ်း၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊
ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၀၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇ ၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇ ၂၇၂၆

ပုဏ္ဏား
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတပ်မတော်အနီး၊
ပုဏ္ဏားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁ ၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁ ၂၆၅၃၃

Hotline - 09974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Thin Thin May,

09251022355,
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Rakhine Relief-to-Recovery-to-Development Workshop launched

TO draw out future tasks for the development of Rakhine State, the Rakhine Relief-to-Recovery-to-Development Workshop began yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, with international experts experienced in solving conflicts, such as the Rakhine issue, sharing their experiences.

In his opening address of the two-day workshop, Depu-

ty Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung expressed hope that local and foreign partnership organisations would understand the government's efforts for solving the Rakhine State issue, urging them to actively and openly discuss the issue to arrive at a good outcome.

Following his address, Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Chief Coordi-

nator of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD), introduced the UEHRD and answered questions raised by the participants of the workshop.

Thomas Hockley of the European Union, Peter Bachelon of the United Nations Development Programme and Sean Bradley of the World Bank discussed subjects related to assessment, management and financial sectors.

The union government announced last month its readiness for repatriation of returnees from Bangladesh under the agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The Physical Arrangement for Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents from Bangladesh under the Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State was signed by the two countries on 16 January.

Myanmar has set up two reception camps and one transit camp on its side of the border. —Myanmar News Agency ■



The Rakhine Relief-to-Recovery-to-Development Workshop being held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits the Singapore Airshow 2018 at Changi Exhibition Centre yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General visits Singapore Airshow 2018

At the invitation of Lt. Gen. Perry Lim, Chief of Defence Force of the Singaporean Armed Forces, a Tatmadaw delegation, led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, arrived in Singapore on 6 February to attend the Singapore Airshow 2018.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his delegation visited the Singapore Airshow 2018 at Changi Exhibition Centre yesterday morning.

The Senior General met

with Lt. Gen. Perry Lim at the exhibition centre.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to boosting the friendship between the two armed forces, exchange of visits between the naval forces, and cooperation in military medicine between the two countries.

Later, the Senior General and his delegation had a look at the military aircraft, helicopters and military cargo aircraft on display at the aviation exhibition. —Myanmar News Agency ■

ASEAN expresses support for Myanmar

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humanitarian assistance to all displaced inhabitants without discrimination. ASEAN also welcomed the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State between Myanmar and Bangladesh signed on 23 November 2017, as well as the establishment of the Advisory Board for the implementation of the recommendations on Rakhine State. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers, among others, expressed their support to the Myanmar Government in its efforts to bring peace, stability, rule of law and to promote harmony and reconciliation among the various communities, as well as sustainable and equitable development in Rakhine State.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attended the working dinner hosted by Foreign Minister of Singapore Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan on Monday and ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat held on Tuesday together with other ASEAN Foreign Ministers.

At the Retreat, the ministers discussed Singapore's initiative



Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and other ASEAN Foreign Ministers pose for a documentary photo at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Singapore on Tuesday. **PHOTO: MNA**

under the theme of "Resilience and Innovation" as well as priorities of Singapore's ASEAN chairmanship including its proposal of ASEAN Leaders' Vision for the resilient and innovative ASEAN, creation of ASEAN Smart Cit-

ies Network, and strengthening of Cyber Security cooperation among ASEAN member states. They also discussed follow up to the 31st ASEAN Summit and exchange views on regional and international issues of common

interest and concern.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin also briefed the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in an informal setting on the recent developments in Rakhine State and Myanmar's efforts in preparation for the

return of the displaced people.

In his briefing, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin stressed that the current humanitarian situation in Rakhine State was caused by brutal terrorist attacks against 30 police outposts, not by clashes between the two communities. The issue of Rakhine was not a religious one, but a political and economic issue involving illegal migration, rule of law, resources competition and poverty.

At a time when the Myanmar government has been exerting serious efforts to resolve the issue, the ARSA terrorist group has worsened the situation through provocative acts and disinformation campaign, the minister said. The Union Minister emphasised the need for ASEAN to assist Myanmar in enhancing humanitarian assistance and in implementation of Dr. Kofi Annan Commission's recommendations in the needed areas and not to support actions that could inflame the already complex situation and further polarise the two communities. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin receives Singaporean Ambassador

UNION Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin received Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Vanessa Elisabeth Chan Yuen Ying at the guest hall of the Ministry yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the Union Minister discussed matters on preserving and promoting the literature of ethnics, protecting

ethnic rights and supporting the peace process. He also said the government is making efforts to discuss the peace process and the repatriation process in Myanmar. He added that one could witness the true situation of Rakhine state.

The Singaporean Ambassador expressed happiness on hear-

ing about the concerted efforts of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, and called for more such collaborative efforts in the future.

The Singaporean Ambassador also invited the ministry to attend the Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Institute (SMVTI) in Yangon. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin meets with Singaporean Ambassador Ms Vanessa Elisabeth Chan Yuen Ying. PHOTO: MNA

Japan is a longtime friend of Myanmar and is determined to provide full-fledged support for Myanmar's democratic nation building: Mr. Kentaro Sonoura

The following is an interview with Mr. Kentaro Sonoura, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan (National Security) who is visiting Myanmar on February 7 and 8.

Q: What sort of cooperation is Japan providing to Myanmar?

A: Japan is supporting consolidation of democracy, national reconciliation and economic development of Myanmar; regarding it as its long-standing friend, by bringing together its public and private sectors. We are aiming to provide support, focusing on the three areas; Yangon's urban development; transportation; and electricity so that Myanmar people can actually feel a sense of improvements of their living conditions by 2020.

It is important to improve connectivity within the country as well as with neighboring countries for realizing economic development. First, Japan is carrying out rehabilitation of the Yangon Circular Railway and will start the preparatory surveys for construction of the North-South and East-West Urban Railway Lines in order to improve the efficiency of transport and logistics around Yangon. We will also implement rehabilitation of the Yangon-Mandalay Railway and the improvement of the inland water transportation between Yangon and Mandalay, as to enhance the connectivity between rural areas and urban areas as well as overseas. Furthermore, we have provided support for introducing an electronic customs system and are assisting construction of the East-West Economic Corridor connecting the border with Thailand to Yangon, in order to facilitate logistics in the entire Mekong region, including Myanmar. It is expected that Thilawa Special Economic Zone, the symbol of the cooperation between the public and private sectors of Japan and Myanmar, will play an important role as a trigger for economic



development by connecting Myanmar's economy with the world economy, in addition to inviting foreign investment, fostering industries and creating jobs.

Furthermore, achieving national reconciliation is an indispensable factor for consolidating Myanmar's development and ensuring regional stability. Japan is supporting Myanmar's peace process, together with Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar, through facilitating dialogue between the stakeholders involved as well as providing reconstruction and development assistance to the areas, including Kayin State, where ceasefire has been achieved.

Tatmadaw has an important role in consolidation of democracy in Myanmar. Japan is conducting defense cooperation and exchange through accepting cadets from Tatmadaw in the National Defense Academy of Japan, exchanging officers and supporting capacity building for various areas including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR), hoping that Tatmadaw can draw the experiences from the Japan Self-Defense Forces positioned in our democratic system.

During my visit to Myanmar,

We understand that consolidation of democracy and sustenance of development in Myanmar is directly linked to stability and prosperity of the entire Indo-Pacific region

I will attend the opening ceremony of the HA/DR seminar held by Ministry of Defense of Japan and the Japan Self-Defense Forces for Tatmadaw today.

Q: What sort of cooperation is Japan carrying out in the Indo-Pacific region as a whole?

A: Japan has been contributing to the regional stability and prosperity through utilizing various means including Official Development Assistance (ODA). We regard that the Indo-Pacific region, including the ASEAN, has big populations and an economic dynamism and is the core of the world's vitality. Japan is promoting the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy," in order to maintain the free and open Indo-Pacific, based on the rule of law, the international public goods bringing stability and prosperity in the whole region.

This strategy consists of the following three pillars: (i) promoting and establishing freedom of navigation and the rule of law (ii) pursuing economic prosperity by improving connectivity with quality infrastructure development in accordance with international standards and (iii) securing peace and stability through capacity-building in the areas of

maritime law enforcement and disaster prevention.

Especially, Japan has made efforts improve, not only physical connectivity including ports, railways and roads, but also human connectivity and system connectivity, in cooperation with Indo-Pacific nations, including Myanmar. In the context of Japan-Mekong cooperation, we have discussed priority projects and issues and contributed to project formation through the Connectivity Initiative. For developing infrastructure, we will give due consideration to profitability and safety as well as social and environmental impacts and focus on creating employment and building capacities through implementing projects. Furthermore, in addition to ensuring the coherence to the recipient country's financial soundness and the economic development strategy, we are promoting the development of "quality infrastructure" in accordance with the international standards for ensuring freedom of access by those in need of infrastructure. We believe that several projects involved by Japan, such as the abovementioned Thilawa Special Economic Zone and the East-West Economic Corridor, can generate a sense of improvement among Myanmar people.

Japan has also been im-

plementing capacity building assistance for maritime law enforcement, disaster prevention and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR), in order to ensure safety of maritime transportation routes and to maintain maritime order based on rule of law.

Q: How is Myanmar positioned in the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy"?

A: Japan is a longtime friend of Myanmar and is determined to provide full-fledged support for Myanmar's democratic nation building, as Myanmar went through a historical turning point two years ago. We understand that consolidation of democracy and sustenance of development in Myanmar is directly linked to stability and prosperity of the entire Indo-Pacific region, including the Mekong and ASEAN regions.

Japan also regards Myanmar, located in the conjunction between Southeast Asia and South Asia, as a key in promoting the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy". Therefore, Myanmar is an important country for Japan. We will carry out cooperation in line with the abovementioned three pillars in order that this strategy can fully contribute to Myanmar's development.

We believe that our cooperation can facilitate and invigorate the comings and goings of people and things along the route leading to India, the Middle East and Africa in the westward, and Mekong countries, South China Sea and Pacific in the eastward, and promote economic development of the whole region. Japan highly values the possibility of Myanmar's growth and is committed to advance along with Myanmar. —News Team ■

Green technology key to green growth

The plan for economic and social development in ASEAN countries, including Myanmar, should include a sound environmental policy, because all the money in the world is worth nothing without land that is rich, water that is pure, and an ecosystem that is healthy.

Unfortunately, most ASEAN countries are encountering the consequences of climate change, deterioration of ecosystems, deforestation, endangered species, pollution of air, oceans, rivers, lakes and land and infectious diseases.

A healthy environment and a healthy economy starts with people. It is important to reduce poverty, prevent starvation, eliminate malnutrition, reverse the retardation of growth among children, create job opportunities, provide quality education and healthcare and respond to natural disasters.

To overcome these challenges, investments which take responsibility for conservation of natural resources and which benefit the people are required in Myanmar. A national-level natural environment policy, strategy on main work processes, a national-level policy on climate change, strategy and work processes, a national-level waste management strategy and green economy policy framework should be part of an economic master plan.

In a green economy policy framework, sectors that raise green economy investment are being set and conducted as a priority. The ASEAN region, with a population of more than 630million, is one of the world's biggest markets and stands as an important pillar in the world trade sector. It is expected to become the principal region in world trade. As a consequence, there will be an increasing demand for natural resources.

The livelihoods of the people in the ASEAN region are still dependent on natural resources, and it is very important to manage and use the natural resources in a sustainable way. Much of the region's growth has relied on natural resources. Going forward, we should change past practices that have caused deforestation, mudslides and pollution of the land and water.

Myanmar is including green development and climate change matters in national and regional-level sector development processes as well as pledging to implement a 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In order to achieve these goals, emerging technologies should be embraced to help ensure that future growth is "green"- a win-win for the environment and the economy. These technologies are designed to mitigate or reverse the effects of human activity on the environment.

This includes development of alternative energy, responsible choice of building materials, and methods of production that have the smallest possible impact on the environment. These technologies are affordable, and in many cases eventually pay for themselves.

To reach our target of a green and clean natural environmental policy in the ASEAN region by 2020, we hope that ASEAN member countries and development partner organizations will find ways to discuss the establishment of investment and businesses based on green technology that reduce carbon emissions, eliminates the use and generation of hazardous substances, and advocates the application of green engineering principles.

To achieve this, exchange of information and experiences among ASEAN countries should be increased through the ASEAN Institute for Green Economy (AIGE).

What the evidence of blood relationship reveals

By U Kyaw Win
Anthropologist

The following conversation took place recently between me and a friend who I have known only a short time. The conversation revealed much about our anthropological origin as well as our current attitudes toward each other.

Q: My friend started with the question: What is your national race, Sir? You speak Myanmar with a little different accent, don't you?

My answer: My father is a Mon national and my mother is a woman of Shan-Bamar parentage. So I am a genuine Pyidaungsu national.

An exact answer to your question is that there are three purported major races of humankind in the world by the name of Caucasoid, Mongoloid and Negroid, according to research conducted by anthropologists.

Myanmar-born nationalities are included in the Mongoloid (yellow skin), one of the major races of humankind, according to the world's anthropologists. In 1964, Myanmar archaeologists excavated human skeletons from Hill No. 14 in the ancient city of Beikthano, one of the old cities of the Pyu Kingdom. Upon

examination of the skeletons by anthropologists from Yangon University and specialists from the Anatomy

Department of the Institute of Medicine (1) in Yangon, the human skeletons were found to be Mongoloid fossils. They belonged to a 25-year-old man who was fully nourished before he died.

The Pyu people were believed to be Myanmar ancestors who flourished and settled in Myanmar some 2,000 years ago. If the skeletons discovered in the Hill No. 14 in Beikthano city are those of our ancestors, it is obvious that we are of the Mongoloid race.

Q: Very interesting. Please continue.

A: Human races can be as-

'What I want to point out is that our nationals are neither different people nor different races; they are blood relations. Even though they are differentiated by means of language, costumes and religion, they are biologically bound together to live through thick and thin.'

sessed by means of two branches of physical and scientific anthropology; the former can be assessed by personal appearance, the latter by growth of the human body. Firstly, the

assessments on the appearance of a person include the colour of his hair, facial expression, the color of the eyes and the crease in the eyelid. These features lead to the determination of his ancestors. By assessing the appearance of Myanmar nationals, most of them have straight and dark hair. Their complexion is yellow; the eyes are

nationals showed the majority of the people are found to have heads with a measurement of 75sp-80sp, which falls into the category of middle size. The faces of many Myanmar

nor different races.

Q: Wait a minute Sayar. You insist you have done research on each and every one of the entire people of Myanmar, don't you?

Four Objectives of the 71th Anniversary Union Day

1. To develop the Union Spirit
2. To make the internal peace process a success with unity of ethnic people
3. To build a Federal Democratic Union through the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong
4. To boost the economy of the Union by encouraging small and medium enterprises

A: He

asked me in a state of hesitation.

He might think that this interview is just wishful thinking. Forty million people are not all Myanmar nationals. Some foreigners have got Myanmar citizenship; some have applied for citizenship. We have done a research on indigenous nationals as much as we can. When I was a university student at B.A (Hons) and M.A classes, we experimented in the laboratory of the Anthropology Department on the assessments of personal appearances and body indexes. Indigenous students from universities were invited to the lab for our assessments. Nationalities attending Union Day celebrations were invited to help in our assessments.

When I joined the work, we all took equipment for field trips,

nationals are big and broad. Average height is 5'5" for men, 5'3" for women. The majority of blood types are group O. Assessments and body indexes on our nationalities show that they belong to the Mongoloid race in accordance with strong evidence. In other words, our nationalities are of blood relationship with one another from the point of view of physical anthropology. They are neither different nationals

usually brown or black. The front teeth are a little big, and the lips are neither thick nor thin. Secondly, the study on the physical size of Myanmar

Asia's expanding cities must embrace youth to avoid unrest -UN

By Michael Taylor

KUALA LUMPUR — Governments overseeing Asia's rapidly-expanding cities must give young people greater opportunities in order to avoid unrest like the Arab Spring, said the regional head of the United Nations development agency. In an interview in Kuala Lumpur, Haoliang Xu cited the Arab Spring protests, which convulsed North Africa and the Middle East in 2011, as a movement that began with young

people's disillusionment about the future.

"Inequality breeds instability," said Xu, director for Asia-Pacific at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). "It is a really critical issue. The risks are there."

Cities in the Asia-Pacific region have seen unprecedented growth over the last two decades.

This year, more than half the region's population will for the first time be urban, and that figure will rise to two-thirds by

2050, the UNDP estimates.

"If nothing happens you will have more polarization of societies," Xu told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"I'm sure at some point there is a tipping point where things will go from bad to worse, but I see a lot of positive signs," he said on the sidelines of the World Urban Forum, which is the largest conference on sustainable cities.

About 1.5 billion people in the region still lack basic sanitation services, while 250

million people live in slums.

Infrastructure and services in many Asia-Pacific cities have struggled to keep pace with rising populations and economic growth, while the affects of climate change have created further challenges. But rather than focus solely on raising incomes to solve inequality, Xu said young people must be allowed to participate in the decisions that shape the cities where they live in.

Governments embarking on major infrastructure

projects - like transport - should involve young people and future users during the planning stages, said Xu.

"If you empower the young people today, you empower them in the future," he said.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) approved by 193 U.N. member states in 2015 to conquer poverty, climate change and other issues could be used to address inequalities and hold governments to account, he said.

Businesses can also pro-

mote sustainability - and doing so may also encourage customer loyalty.

Governments can play a key role in convincing small and medium-sized businesses to engage with communities, and should provide fiscal incentives to stimulate investments in innovative technologies, said Xu.

"You encourage companies to invest in technology that will produce a positive return for the environment," he added.— Reuters

Developing Critical Thinking in Young Minds

(Third Part of the Article that was published on 1st February 2018 on "Need of Developing Employability Skills in Young Minds of Myanmar for their Sustainable Career Growth and making the nation Emerging Knowledge Economy")



Dr G R Sinha
Professor, Myanmar Institute of Information Technology Mandalay
Adjunct Professor, IIIT Bangalore India

SECOND part of the main article (Developing Employability Skills in young minds in Making Myanmar as great Knowledge Economy), was published on 5th February 2018 with an impressive and emergent topic on "Developing Communication Skill" in reputed daily, Global New Light of Myanmar. Now, this is third part of the series of articles with very challenging title "Developing Critical Thinking". Critical Thinking is most important skill that makes us innovative with novel thoughts and their viable implementations. This is actually skill that engages young minds in reflective and independent thinking. Questions, ideas; thoughts, puzzles; queries; insight; and many other similar entities make critical thinking to develop in oneself.

There is great saying of a motivational speaker Shiv Khara and he says that "Do not do many things, but do something in Many Different ways". This statement is wonderful and can be considered as foundation for development of critical thinking. Critical thinking does not come from Rote Learning but gets developed through problem solving approaches and practices. Let us briefly understand few major practical ways of developing the Critical Thinking in Students, youth and all others. The nation is known and recognized by "Think Tank" also and therefore critical thinkers do not only do great job for them but for the nation and the world as a whole too.

Critical thinking is foundation of all innovations and here are few ways of developing this important skill. All innovations are done for benefit of society and mankind. So, the critical thinking enables us in contributing towards nation and the world for larger benefit of humankind and society.

1. Think about Ideas and Contemplate upon: One needs to always have idea-driven candidate. He or she should think about different ways of attempting solution of a problem because the problem is not solved using a number of ways, but still one more way of getting solution is left. Contemplate rather think only about a problem and try to correlate ideas and develop link between them; and try to find out the solution.

2. Train your Brain: Training of brain is very much required in developing and practicing critical thinking. Now, we have to understand how brain can be trained. This could be achieved in many simple ways. Always think strategically; comprehend an idea or a problem; understand the concepts and do not memorize; create some pictorial information for everything that you think about; learn new language and sports if possible; and so on. Getting good sleep is another nutrient required by the brain and therefore we should get the sleep properly.

3. Connect the available Information: We are living in knowledge driven and artificial intelligent (AI) world that is a brilliant association of suitable information. Therefore, develop that ability to connect ideas and information to formulate or create new knowledge.

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Thilawa SEZ on track

By Ye Khaung Nyunt

Located on the outskirts of Yangon, the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is the first to be built in Myanmar. It is a monumental project strongly supported by the governments of Myanmar and Japan.

Daw Cho Cho Win, vice chairperson-2 of Thilawa SEZ management committee, said, "We intend to complete developing 101 hectares of SEZ Zone B (part 1) by August this year, and another 66 hectares of SEZ Zone B (part 2) by August 2019. Implementations are still being carried out for the first part of SEZ Zone B, and investment permissions are being granted. Some companies are also planning to invest in plots in our SEZ zones.

The SEZ Zone(B) is spread over 700 hectares. The first part of 100 hectares was implemented in February 2017 and will be completed in August 2018. Similarly, the second part of 66.4 hectares will be implemented in December 2018, and is expected to be completed by August 2019, according to the Thilawa SEZ management committee.

Dr. Than Than Thwe, joint-secretary of the Thilawa SEZ management committee, said, "For Zone B of the first phase, land, including 101 hectares (250 acres), was leased to Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand."

Regarding the first part of Zone (B) that is spread over 101 hectares, she added that of the



Construction workers working at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, outskirts of Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

100 hectares, 49 per cent has been leased so far. "We have leased land to many countries, such as Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand, and they will produce construction materials, food products and other goods. The total investment in these six companies amounts to \$75.19 million. Another three companies are also awaiting permissions, and they have already rented plots of land," said Dr. Than Than Thwe.

Some 50 per cent of the first of Zone (B) of the first phase has been implemented so far, and houses have been built for displaced residents in ward 3, Myaing Thar Yar, she added.

Those who lived in Zone B



Dr. Than Than Thwe, joint-secretary of the Thilawa SEZ management committee.

have moved to ward 3, Myaing Thar Yar. They received compensation according to the policies of Japan International Cooperation Agency, who relocated 90 houses for them, she stated.

As for the government, ar-



Daw Cho Cho Win, vice chairperson-2 of Thilawa SEZ management committee.

rangements are being made to develop 2,400 hectares in the Thilawa SEZ, and the opening ceremony of this project was held on 23 September 2015.

"As a successful project, investments were made to the tune

of \$1.2 billion in Zone A, and 96 per cent of the plots have been leased, while the remaining 4 per cent is under negotiation. Many huge companies have come here, and we have granted permissions for 90 kinds of businesses to 16 countries. Many factories and workshops, including 40 kinds of businesses, are being operated currently. Among them, some four factories are exporting goods to other countries, she said.

Daw Cho Cho Win, vice chairperson-2 of Thilawa SEZ, said, "As the motto goes, 'From regional development to state development', we also aim to implement state-level development through regional development."

Developing Critical Thinking in Young Minds

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4. Get up and Move forward: If we keep thinking that the critical thinking is owned by only scientists, engineers or researchers then we would never develop. We have to move forward and attempt in solving the real time problems. We come across several problems in our daily life, let us think about any problem and start contemplating how this could be solved.

5. Discuss with Peers: Interactive way of seeking solution always works; and hence you should discuss with your

friends or peers that this is the problem being posed and how to get solution for the same.

6. Thinking Cycle: Thinking cycle begins with problem identification; followed by ideating the thought process. So, the ideas follow the problem and then ideas have to be realized as possible ways of solving the identified problem. One needs to evaluate the subsequent stages of ideas being implemented. Self-evaluation and then assessment with the help of peers and mentors, would give right reflection of thought process its outcome.

Each stage of this cycle should have appropriate reasoning associated with.

7. Think about 'W's and H: One should always think upon many 'W's, such as What, Why, Where, When, and of course one 'H' also, that is How.

8. Consider all Reasonable Solutions: Whatever solution is being generated for solving a problem, one should consider it reasonably and the decision or judgement should be made patiently without making and hasty outcome.

9. Identifying the Problem is the First Step: The

identification of problem in constructive way is actually the first step in developing critical thinking. The problem identified needs to be analyzed in many ways in terms of modular analysis.

10. Be Disciplined and Honest to yourself: You have to be very honest to yourself and discipline should be there in all activities that are planned to achieve something as an attempt to get a practical solution for a real time problem.

Let us summarize this article by a great statement "Take up One Idea; Think upon that

Idea; Live upon that Idea; Let every muscle of your brain be put inside the Idea". This great quotation of Swami Vivekananda is for achieving goals in life; that equally applies in the Development of Critical Thinking. We must have at least one larger goal to contribute innovative for great cause of nation and therefore contemplate upon the ideas to solve some real time problems that are prevailing in nature and society.

(Please do write for feedback to me at drgsinha@ieee.org, ganeshsinha@acm.org, gr_sinha@mit.edu.mm)

Notice for issuing matriculation exam identity cards

The Ministry of Education has announced the guidelines for students taking the matriculation exams between 7 and 16 March. Students can collect their identity cards from their respective examination centres starting from 19 February. Students from Basic Education High School (branch) and (affiliated) and private schools can draw the ID cards from the respective heads of schools on the same day. Students facing any difficulties can contact their heads, exam centre examiner, township education officer, or the Myanmar Examinations Department.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Chairman of the Union Peace Commission and Patron of the Myanmar Scout Association Dr. Tin Myo Win speaks at the opening ceremony of Myanmar Messengers of Peace Local Coordinators Training in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Training held for coordinators of Messengers of Peace

MYANMAR Messengers of Peace (MoP) Local Coordinators Training jointly organised by the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the Asia Pacific Scout Region and the Myanmar Scout Association began at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Dr. Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Union Peace Commission and Patron of the Myanmar Scout Association, said the messengers of peace training is especially required for the scouts as no country in the world can do without peace.

“The three requirements for achieving peace are loving kindness, sympathy and trust. Only our efforts bases on the

Scouts’ oath: To help other people at all times”, that can be considered loving kindness, can we build trust,” said Dr. Tin Myo Win.

He expressed his thanks to the two international scout organisations for helping fulfil the needs of the country, believing the training can increase the number of people who strive for peace. Dr. Tin Nyo, the Chief Scout of Myanmar, extended greetings and Mr. S Prassanna Shrivastava, Director, Development Support and Finance of the Asia-Pacific Region, explained the reason of the training to participants.

Fifty trainees are attending the training, which will end on 11 February.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Writers and poets singing to open the poem recitation for peace in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Writers, poets recite poems for peace

By Zaw Gyi

As a gesture of hailing the 71st Union Day, the Myanmar Writers Club organized a poem recitation and singing for peace event at the Maha Bandoolla Park in downtown Yangon yesterday.

The ceremony was opened with singing of “Let all flowers blossom” and writers joined in chorus. Writers and poets recited poems for peace.

“Peace is very important for

the country. Public is very interested in recitation of real poem for peace. The poems recited today include poems of Sayargyi Thakin Kodaw Hmaing to contemporary poems. The culture of poem recitation is rooted in Myanmar,” said Gone Duu U Thein Naing, Patron of the Myanmar Writers Club.

“The first step is very important for our journey to the peace. In this journey, we want

to participate in the efforts for peace. This is the reason why we hold this event,” said Saya Kaung Thant, Chairman of the Myanmar Writers Club.

“When all the people demand peace in unison, all stake holders for peace making would understand the desire of the people and success would be achieved in the 21st century Panglong,” he added. The event becomes the first activity of the club in 2018. ■

School buildings, information centre & library unveiled

THE ceremony to mark the 97th and 98th handover of two school buildings, along with the launching of an informational center and library, was held yesterday by Shwe Taung Group at Pyi Nyaung Village in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region.

MP U Kyaw Thiha, chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw committee for minerals and natural resources and Hluttaw Representatives from Mandalay Region, foreign ambassadors to Myanmar, representatives from International Finance Corporation (IFC) of World Bank, other responsible officials and officials from Shwe Taung Group led by Chairman U Aike Tun attended the ceremony.

Representatives of the Shwe Taung Group handed over new two-storey buildings for BEHS in Pyi Nyaung Village. The new building is 12,672 square feet with 10 classrooms including a student lab and headmaster’s office. The



MPs and dignitaries formally open the ceremony to handover the school building in Thazi, Mandalay. **PHOTO: MNA**

school can accommodate over 600 students. Likewise, the new school building in Ku Pyin Village is a 3,600 square feet steel structure comprised of five classrooms and a teachers’ office. The school can accommodate about 80 students. Teaching aids and furniture for the students are also included in the buildings.

The total donation amount is estimated at about Ks300 million.

The necessities for students, including textbooks and stationery, are also being provided by the donors through the ambassadors and the Chairman of Shwe Taung Group, U Aite Tun. The Information Center and library aims to contribute knowledge and information for the public, and will also be the site of a clinic for free health care services for local people.—MNA ■



RPK-16 machine gun. PHOTO: TASS

Kalashnikov signs contract to supply Defence Ministry with newest RPK-16 machine guns

MOSCOW — The Kalashnikov Concern and Russia's Defence Ministry have signed a contract on the delivery of the newest RPK-16 machine guns, Kalashnikov Concern CEO Alexey Krivoruchko said on Tuesday.

When asked if such a contract had been signed, Krivoruchko answered in the affirmative. While developing the RPK-16 5.45mm light machine gun, weapons designers took

into consideration lessons learnt from recent armed conflicts. The machine gun was unveiled at the Army 2016 international military exhibition. The weapon can operate as a light machine gun or as an assault rifle because its long barrel can be replaced with a short one. A special 96-cartridge drum, which is also compatible with Kalashnikov assault rifles, has been developed for this machine gun.—Tass ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL
SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AW.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 12th FEBRUARY 2018 (Union Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

Ancient Briton had dark skin and blue eyes, scientists find

LONDON — “Cheddar Man”, Britain's oldest, nearly complete human skeleton, had dark skin, blue eyes and dark curly hair when he lived in what is now southwest England 10,000 years ago, scientists who read his DNA have discovered.

The finding suggests that the lighter skin pigmentation now seen as typical of northern Europeans is far more recent than previously thought, according to researchers from University College London (UCL) who took part in the project.

Cheddar Man's skin colour was described as “dark to black” by the scientific team which also included researchers from London's Natural History Museum, where the skeleton is on display in the Human Evolution gallery.

“To go beyond what the bones tell us and get a scientifically based picture of what he actually looked like is a remarkable, and from the results quite surprising achievement,” said Chris Stringer, the museum's research leader in Human Origins.

Unearthed in 1903 in a cave at Cheddar Gorge, in the county of Somerset, the Mesolithic-era man

was a hunter-gatherer whose ancestors migrated into Europe at the end of the last Ice Age.

Three hundred generations later, around 10 per cent of indigenous British ancestry can be linked to Cheddar Man's people, scientists say.

As part of a project commissioned by Britain's Channel 4 television station for a documentary, experts from the Natural History Museum's ancient DNA lab drilled a tiny hole into the skull in order to extract genetic information. The DNA was unusually well-preserved, enabling the scientists to sequence Cheddar Man's genome for the first time and to analyse it to establish aspects of his appearance. Then, a pair of Dutch artists who are experts in palaeontological model making, Alfons and Adrie Kennis, used a high-tech scanner to make a three-dimensional model of Cheddar Man's head. The model, which UCL and the Natural History Museum said rendered Cheddar Man's face with unprecedented accuracy, shows a man with dark skin, high cheekbones, blue eyes and coarse black hair.—Reuters ■

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At least six killed, 60 missing after quake rocks Taiwan tourist area

HUALIEN, (Taiwan) — Rescuers combed through the rubble of collapsed buildings on Wednesday, as they searched for about 60 people missing after a strong earthquake killed at least six near the popular Taiwanese tourist city of Hualien overnight.

The magnitude 6.4 quake, which hit near the coastal city just before midnight (1600 GMT) on Tuesday, also injured 243 people and collapsed four buildings, officials said.

Hualien Mayor Fu Kun-chi said the number of people missing was now close to 60, although an exact figure was not provided. As many as 150 were initially feared missing.

Many of the missing were believed to be still trapped inside buildings, some of which were tilting precariously, after the quake hit about 22 km (14 miles) northeast of Hualien on Taiwan's east coast.

At the city's Marshal Hotel, rescuers trying to free two trapped Taiwan-

ese pulled out one alive, but the other person was declared dead, the government said.

Among the injured were mainland Chinese, Czech, Japanese, Singaporean and South Korean nationals.

Aftershocks with a magnitude of at least 5.0 could rock the island in the next two weeks, the government said. Smaller tremors rattled nervous residents throughout the day.

Residents waited and watched anxiously as emergency workers dressed in fluorescent orange and red suits and wearing helmets searched for residents trapped in apartment blocks.

Hualien is home to about 100,000 people. Its streets were buckled by the force of the quake, with around 40,000 homes left without water and around 1,900 without power. Water supply had returned to nearly 5,000 homes by noon (0400 GMT), while power was restored to around 1,700 households.



Rescue workers are seen by a damaged building after an earthquake hit Hualien, Taiwan on 7 February, 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

DAMAGE, PANIC

Emergency workers surrounded a badly damaged 12-storey residential building, a major focus of the rescue effort. Windows had collapsed and the building, which is around 17 years old, was wedged into the ground at a rough 40-degree angle.

Rescuers worked their way around and

through the building while residents looked on from behind cordoned-off roads. Others spoke of the panic when the earthquake struck.

"We were still open when it happened," said Lin Ching-wen, who operates a restaurant near a damaged military hospital. "I grabbed my wife and children and we ran out and tried to rescue

people," he said.

A Reuters video showed large cracks in the road, while police and emergency services tried to help anxious people roaming the streets. A car sat submerged in rubble as rescue workers combed through the ruins of a nearby building.

President Tsai Ing-wen went to the scene of the quake early on

Wednesday to help direct rescue operations.

"The president has asked the cabinet and related ministries to immediately launch the 'disaster mechanism' and to work at the fastest rate on disaster relief work," Tsai's office said in a statement.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co, the world's largest contract chipmaker and major Apple supplier, said initial assessments indicated no impact from the earthquake.

Taiwan, a self-ruled island that China considers part of its territory, lies near the junction of two tectonic plates and is prone to earthquakes. An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.1 struck nearby on Sunday. More than 100 people were killed in a quake in southern Taiwan in 2016, and some Taiwanese remain scarred by a 7.6 magnitude quake that was felt across the island and killed more than 2,000 people in 1999. —Reuters ■

Malaysia sentences opposition lawmaker to jail ahead of polls

KUALA LUMPUR — A Malaysian court on Wednesday sentenced an opposition lawmaker to jail for revealing confidential bank details in a 2012 graft scandal, a potential blow on the opposition ahead of national polls that must be held by August.

Rafizi Ramli is a senior leader with the People's Justice Party (PKR) and the ruling could dent the opposition challenge to scandal-tainted Prime Minister Najib Razak in the elections.

Elected representatives are disqualified from office and barred from contesting elections if sentenced to at least six months' jail or fined at least 2,000 ringgit. An-

other PKR lawmaker is appealing against a 3,000 ringgit fine.

Rafizi was handed a 30-month jail term for revealing to the media bank details of the National Feedlot Corp (NFCorp) and a top executive of the company which was tasked by the government with boosting cattle production, state news agency Bernama said. Rafizi had at the time alleged that executives at NFCorp had misappropriated about 250 million ringgit (\$64 million) of public funds in what the media had called the "cow gate" scandal.

The judge granted a stay of execution of the sentence to allow Rafizi to appeal the decision.

Najib faces an unprecedented challenge from his former mentor, former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad, whom the opposition have named as their leader. Mahathir, 92, turned on Najib in 2015 over the prime minister's handling of a multi-billion dollar scandal linked to state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

In civil lawsuits, the US Justice Department has alleged that about \$4.5 billion was misappropriated from 1MDB. The Malaysian fund has denied any wrongdoing and Najib, who founded 1MDB, has denied all allegations of corruption against him. — Reuters ■

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP). The IDA No. of the credit agreement is No. 5889-MM. The Department of Highways (DOH) of the Ministry of Construction, in its role as implementing agency of the FLERP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contracts C4-MOC-G07 BIS, for the supply of Double Cab Project Inspection Vehicles. DOH now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference Number: C4-MOC-G07 BIS – Double Cab Project Inspection Vehicles

Reference No.	Lot No	Description	Quantity
C4-MOC-G07 BIS	1	Double Cab Project Inspection Vehicles	4 vehicles
Supply to		Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw	

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ).

Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line of **Thursday 22 February 2018 at 11:00am Myanmar time** after which no Quotations will be accepted. The vehicles will be contracted in 1 (one) contract.

The Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: U Khin Zaw, Project Director, Department of Highways of the Ministry of Construction, Office No. (11), Nay Pyi Taw. Office phone and fax (+95-67)407583 Email: flerp.moc@gmail.com. Please indicate one of the reference numbers above as well as your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send.

'Black Panther' gets superhero reception from critics



Cast member Lupita Nyong'o poses for a portrait while promoting the movie "Black Panther" in Beverly Hills, California, US on 30 January, 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

LOS ANGELES — "Black Panther," the first black standalone Marvel superhero movie, won rave reviews on Tuesday with critics praising both its adventure and its portrayal of a majestic Africa.

Directed by Ryan Coogler and featuring a predominantly black cast including Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o and Angela Bassett, "Black Panther" was hailed by the Daily Beast as "a love letter to every black person" and "a correction for years of diversity neglect" by Rolling Stone.

The Disney movie, open-

ing worldwide next week, tells the story of T'Challa, the newly crowned king of the fictional, technologically advanced African nation Wakanda, who is challenged from factions within his own country.

The movie arrives after years of criticism about the under representation of actors and filmmakers of color in Hollywood, including the #OscarsSoWhite campaign that prompted the Academy of Motion Pictures to increase diversity in its predominantly white, male membership.

It got a rare 100 percent

rating from review aggregator RottenTomatoes.com and analysts expect it to bring in some \$150 million at the North American box office on its opening weekend.

The New York Times said the film "creates wonder with great flair and feeling" while having a story that "has far more going for it than branding."

Entertainment Weekly said the movie's "nuanced celebration of pride and identity and personal responsibility" was the movie's "own true superpower."

IndieWire called it "the best Marvel movie so far, by far."

USA Today said that along with the fantastical elements of the film and its James Bond-style spycraft, "Black Panther" was extremely grounded "dealing with the consequences of age-old colonialism and exploring isolation at a time when actual countries are building borders rather than breaking them down." Business Insider said that "Black Panther" arrived at a perfect time. "Like 'Wonder Woman' last year, 'Black Panther' is a project that fans have been waiting decades to see. And just like 'Wonder Woman,' it was worth the wait." —Reuters ■

Kylie Jenner introduces baby Stormi with an Instagram snap

LOS ANGELES — Kylie Jenner, the youngest of the celebrity Kardashian clan, revealed on Tuesday that she had named her new baby daughter Stormi, and posted the first picture of her.

Jenner, 20, posted a close-up photo on her Instagram account showing a baby dressed in pink clasping her pink manicured thumb.

The post was titled simply "Stormi." Jenner announced on Sunday that her child with rapper Travis Scott was born on Feb. 1 and apologised for keeping her pregnancy secret from her 101 million Instagram followers and other fans.

Jenner has parlayed her family's "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" reality TV show into a lucrative cosmetics line.

Stormi is the second of three additions to the Kardashian clan this year. Half-sister Kim Kardashian and her rapper husband Kanye West announced the arrival in January of their third child, a girl they called Chicago, who was born to a surrogate.

Jenner's other half-sister, Khloe Kardashian, is seven months pregnant with her basketball player boyfriend Tristan Thompson. Stormi joins Kardashian cousins North, Saint, Reign, Dream, Mason and Penelope. —Reuters ■

New 'Star Wars' films on way from TV's 'Game of Thrones' creators

LOS ANGELES — Disney on Tuesday announced it was expanding its "Star Wars" universe, hiring the creators behind HBO's massive TV hit "Game of Thrones" to write a new series of films set in the galaxy far, far away.

The Walt Disney Co (DIS.N) said in a statement that David Benioff and DB Weiss would write and produce the new series, which will be separate from both the episodic Skywalker saga and the recently announced trilogy being developed by director Rian Johnson.

No release dates or plot details were given.

Shares in Disney, which also reported a quarterly profit that topped forecasts on Tuesday, rose

nearly 3 per cent in after hours trading.

Kathleen Kennedy, president of Lucasfilm, said in a statement that Benioff and Weiss's "command of complex characters, depth of story and richness of mythology will break new ground and boldly push 'Star Wars' in ways I find incredibly exciting."

Disney is also developing "a few" "Star Wars" television series for an upcoming streaming service from the company, Chief Executive Bob Iger said on a conference call.

In November, Disney had announced that Johnson, director of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," would write and direct the first of a new trilogy of films in the sci-fi franchise that would bring



David Benioff (L) and Dan Weiss, creators and executive producers, arrive for the season premiere of HBO's 'Game of Thrones' in San Francisco, California on 23 March, 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

new characters and worlds not yet explored on screen.

"The Last Jedi," released in December 2017, has earned more than \$1.3 billion at the global

box office.

Disney had previously committed to making three standalone "Star Wars" films outside of the Skywalker saga. They in-

clude 2016's "Rogue One," and May 2018 release "Solo: A Star Wars Story," which follows the origins of the roguish smuggler Han Solo, made famous by Harrison Ford in the original 1977 movie.

Fantasy "Game of Thrones", based on novels by author George R.R. Martin, is a huge hit internationally for HBO (TWX.N) and has won multiple awards. The seventh season last year was watched by some 30 million viewers in the United States alone.

The final season is due to be broadcast in 2019, bringing to a close the saga of the warring families in the fictional Seven Kingdoms of Westeros and their multi-generational struggle for control of the Iron Throne. —Reuters ■

China's terracotta warriors march to Liverpool museum

LIVERPOOL (England) — Figures from China's famed Terracotta Army go on display in a museum in Liverpool this week, a decade after the life-sized sculptures were first showcased in Britain to throngs of visitors.

The highlights of the exhibition are 10 life-size figures — including a terracotta cavalry horse — which form part of the 2,000-year-old army that guarded the tomb of China's First Emperor, Qin Shihuangdi.

Held in Liverpool's World Museum, the exhibit also features a collection of more than 180 Chinese artefacts, from a period in Chinese history spanning almost 1,000 years.

Built as part of emperor Qin Shihuangdi's 56 sq km (21 square mile) tomb complex, the warriors were discovered by villagers in 1974, and excavations have been taking place at the site ever since.

So far, three pits filled with over 2,000 statues, each with its own unique design, have been unearthed. There are estimated to be between 7,000 - 8,000 figures in total.

Qin Shihuangdi is regarded as having laid the foundations for Chinese society. Between 221 BC and his death in 210 BC he imposed the Qin penal code, created a single currency, standardized weights and measures and imposed a single written language and bureaucracy in China.

The warriors' first visit to Britain, for a 2007-2008 exhibition in the British Museum, proved highly popular: It drew 850,000 visitors, making it the second most-visited exhibition in the museum's history after a 1972 Tutankhamun showcase.

The exhibit opens on 9 February and runs until 28 October at Liverpool's World Museum. —Reuters ■



A Terracotta Warrior which guarded the tomb of China's First Emperor, Qin Shi Huang, on loan from China is displayed in The World Museum, Liverpool, Britain on 6 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Four ancient cities unearthed in SW China

CHENGDU — Four ancient cities dating back to about 2,200 years have been discovered in southwest China's Sichuan Province, local authorities said on Tuesday.

According to the Sichuan Provincial Cultural Relics and Archaeology Research Institute, the four ancient cities existed between the Western Han (206 BC - 24 AD) and the Eastern Jin (317 - 420) dynasties.

Excavation began in 2014, discovering walls, gates, wells, and tombs in the sites of the ancient cities.

A selection of cultural relics including bronzeware, terracotta figurines, and eaves tiles were unearthed during the excavation. Based on historical records, Wuyang, one of the discovered ancient cities, was the earliest tea trade market in China. —Xinhua ■



in
Picture

A passenger sits inside Ehang 184, an autonomous aerial vehicle designed to carry one passenger, during a test flight in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, China on 6 February, 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

Britain unveils its 10 greatest music, literary places

LONDON — Britain unveiled on Tuesday the country's 10 greatest music and literary places, among which are the birthplace of William Shakespeare and the homes of famous British writers Jane Austen and Charles Dickens.

This is part of Britain's official cultural agency Historic England's campaign entitled "A History of England in 100 Places", which aims to find the 100 places which bring England's extraordinary history to life.

Also among the 10 is the famous Abbey Road studios in London, the world's longest surviving live music venue, where the Beatles recorded world-hit albums.

Monica Ali, chair of a panel of expert judges, said: "The judging process proved to be a reminder of just how rich the nation's history of creativity is."

"It is an acknowledgement of how the arts have shaped our society, especially at a time when arts are becoming more and more marginalized. These are not only places in which to learn about the past, they also invite contemplation, reflection and, just maybe, inspiration, thus passing the creative baton to future generations," Ali said.

Explaining why Shake-

speare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon has been included, Ali said: "Shakespeare is the greatest English language writer, the most important dramatist, and a superb poet. A visit to his birthplace and to the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) is always inspiring."

Ali, a self-proclaimed great fan of Jane Austen, said although the writer was one of England's most enduringly popular authors with legions of fans, she was underrated.

Austen's home at Chawton in Hampshire was where Austen's genius flourished, producing her greatest novels, *Sense & Sensibility*, *Pride & Prejudice* and *Northanger Abbey*, said Ali.

"With biting irony, Austen used her novels to comment on society, people and the events she observed in her corner of the world," Ali added.

Charles Dickens' former home in Holborn, London where he wrote two of his best-loved novels, *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*, is on the list.

Ali described Dickens as the quintessential London novelist, saying that, when Dickens moved to Doughty Street in 1837, London's streets and their everyday characters inspired him to put London at the heart

of many of his stories and his depiction.

The list also includes the Bronte Parsonage in West Yorkshire, home to the three literary sisters Charlotte, Emily and Anne Bronte. It was in this house that the Bronte sisters wrote some of their most famous novels, including *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights* and *Agnes Grey*.

Handel & Hendrix in London, two neighboring houses, 23 and 25 Brook Street, London, saw two great musicians, Baroque composer George Frideric Handel and 1960s rock icon Jimmi Hendrix, living there 200 years apart.

Other places on the list include the 100 Club in London, described as the "mother of all live music venues", and the home of British writer George Orwell in Islington, London, and Manchester's Chetham Library, the oldest free public reference library in the English speaking world which opened 350 years ago.

In early January, Historic England named the 10 most historic sports and leisure places in England, which includes Wimbledon, home of one of the oldest tennis tournaments in the world. —Xinhua ■

Nadal confirms participation in Queen's Club Championships

LONDON — World number one Rafa Nadal will return to this year's Queen's Club Championships in what will be the 10th anniversary of his memorable triumph that served as a prelude to his maiden Wimbledon title.

Nadal came into the 2008 event on the back of his fourth French Open title and beat Serbia's Novak Djokovic in the final at West London. He then outlasted his great rival and defending champion Roger Federer in five sets at Wimbledon.

"It is going to be the 10th anniversary of my victory there in 2008, it's a great memory, winning there and three weeks later winning Wimbledon," Spaniard Nadal said in a video posted to the tournament's Twitter

account.

"It was an unforgettable year. I am excited to be coming back and playing Queen's again... I can't wait to be there."

Nadal last played the Wimbledon warm-up event in 2015 and lost to Alexandr Dolgoplov in the opening round. He pulled out of the event in the last two years due to injuries.

The 31-year-old retired with an injury in the fifth set of his Australian Open quarter-final match against Croatia's Marin Cilic last month.

Three-times grand slam champion Andy Murray, who underwent hip surgery last month, is targeting a comeback at the event he has won five times, the organisers said.— Reuters ■



Best player of the match, Nilar Win carries the ball by passing her opponents. **PHOTO: MWL**

Thitsar Arman trounces University with Nilar Win's hat trick

KyawZin Lin

THE well-established women's football club Thitsar Arman shut out the inexperienced University club by a score of 6-0 in week 7 of the KBZ Bank Women's League yesterday at Aung San Stadium in Yangon.

Half of the scoring in the game came from the hat trick of Thitsar Arman star Nilar Win.

Thitsar Arman, one of the best teams in the Myanmar Women's league, showed their

prowess from the start as they scored the opening goal at the eight-minute mark by Nilar Win.

Three minutes later, using speedy play, Naw Arlo Wer Phaw scored the second goal at 11 minutes. University FC never gave up, but their attacking style was too soft to even come close to Thitsar's goalkeeper.

Taking advantage of the opportunities of a porous University defence, Khin Mo Mo Tun from Thitsar scored the third goal at the 30-minute mark.

Just before the end of the first half, Nilar Tun scored the fourth goal of the match.

Players from University were marginally better in the second half, improving their defensive alignment.

But Thitsar eventually broke through, with July Kyaw scoring the fifth goal of the game for Thitsar.

At the 71-minute mark, the most valuable player of the game, Nilar Win, completed her hat trick. ■

17-year-old football star reveals his happiness playing for Yadanabon

KyawZin Lin

MYANMAR footballer Myat Kaung Khant, a star midfielder for Yadanabon FC in the MPT Myanmar National League, revealed his youthful delight at being a standout player in Myanmar's premier professional football league.

"I am congratulating myself, as I have the chance to show my abilities while playing with senior players on a team. I believe I can stand together with

my team and contribute. I will try my best to help garner the MNL Cup for my team.

My club, Yadanabon FC, is composed of mostly Myanmar football players. We can communicate very easily with each other. That means we can gain an understanding in our football playing. In my opinion, that is a good point for my team", he said.

The 17 year-old midfielder, who is also a member of the Myanmar youth football team,

honed his skills on the pitch at the Myanmar Football Academy in Mandalay.

He has scored three goals for his team in previous MNL matches in the 2018 season, making him the second most productive goal scorer for Yadanabon. His senior teammate, Yadanabon striker Si Thu Aung, has scored five goals.

Myat Kaung Khant made his first goal as a professional in his very first match against Ayeyawady United. ■