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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 359, 11th Waning of Tagu 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Wednesday, 11 April 2018



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the peace talk with local people in Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

State Counsellor holds Peace Talk in Ayeyawady

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held a Peace Talk yesterday with the local people in Ayeyawady Region, Myaungmya Township, at Basic Education High School No. 1.

The talk, held by the State Counsellor in different locations across the country, was an effort to explain about the ongoing peace process in Myanmar, why peace is critical to the country's future and why peace and development are inseparable. The event was also a chance for the public to ask questions and make comments. Their views are listed below.

Yesterday, local youths participating in the Peace Talk were introduced, and then State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addressed the people of Myaungmya Township.

"I greet all the people from Myaungmya. It can be said that various ethnic nationals are here. I came to Ayeyawady Region, Myaungmya Town to see the Myaungmya bridge. It is also time

"Myaungmya is where my mother was born. It can be said that all of you are my relatives. Once upon a time, there was fighting and armed conflicts in Ayeyawady Region.

Peace throughout the whole country is important. All need to think deeply on why our country is unable to achieve peace.

to hold a Peace Talk", she said.

The State Counsellor noted that she has a close affinity to the region, and pointed out that Ayeyawady has enjoyed peace after enduring a long period of fighting.

There are now no more conflicts in Ayeyawady Region. Although conflicts are over, some Myaungmya town folks may still remember it. That is why I'm holding this Peace Talk to discuss the importance of peace,

what to do to achieve peace, how to come together and help. In some regions, for example, during a Peace Talk held in Mandalay Region, youths from Mandalay Region talked openly. I enjoy having such open talks. They don't understand about armed conflicts because they didn't experience armed conflict in their region. So they are not interested in the peace process, because they were not affected.

But this shouldn't be. I explained to them, if your finger tip hurts, the rest of the body is affected. You can't sleep because it hurts. It affects the way you go around or do things.

In the same way, if there is no peace in one part of your country, it will affect the entire country. The effect is of course bad. That is why peace is impor-

tant. Peace throughout the whole country is important. All need to think deeply on why our country is unable to achieve peace. Need to think on what to do to achieve peace. It is not the same from place to place. Problems are not the same. A person is different from another person. Because of this, different ways are needed to persuade all to participate in the peace process.

But I believe that it is only through shared thought and collective strength that we can achieve success. Without peace, it is not possible for a country to develop, develop for the long term. There can be short term-development. But without peace, development is not sustainable. And without development, peace cannot be maintained.

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talks with Chinese Ambassador Hong Liang in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Ambassador of China

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received Ambassador of China to Myanmar Hong Liang at the Amyotha

Hluttaw guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to improving

the bilateral friendship and co-operation, and enhancing the economic and travel sectors.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Ministry of Health and Sports provides essential medicine and supplies to the public

UNDER the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports, necessary medicines and supplies are being distributed to hospitals and local healthcare centres across the country.

The government has allotted Ks881,769.114 million for the 2016-2017 fiscal year and Ks1,116,557.092 million for the 2017-2018 fiscal year for the Ministry of Health and Sports to purchase the medicine using the tender system.

Medicines and vaccinations for malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, elephantiasis, and leprosy have been provided sufficiently to eliminate them with the help of the Global

Fund, UNOs and International donation organisation.

Although it is a long way for the Ministry of Health and Sports to supply expensive medicines, medicine for rare diseases, as well as medicines which are made in original companies, concerted efforts are being made to fulfil the requirements of the people.

By this way, it is evident that the expenditure of the patients can be reduced significantly. Plans are underway to provide necessary medicines for liver, kidney, and bone marrow cancers to patients.

Although the health care system in Myanmar is poor

even by the standards of developing countries, the ministry is trying to make easy access to healthcare system which can bring better conditions of the sector.

The Ministry of Health and Sports has treated 26 million out-patients and 5.6 million in-patients during 2016 and 2017. As for the field trip medication, these were administered 21.3 million times and efforts are being made to effectively support the government's healthcare system and provide necessary healthcare to the public, and try to cut medical waste.—Ministry of Health and Sports ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends ordination, novitiation ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Defence Services families hold ordination, novitiation Ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw

THE families of Defence Service Office (Army, Navy and Air) organized their 6th ordination and novitiation ceremony yesterday at Kan Oo Monastery (Yezin), Zayathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the ceremony were Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Ngwe, Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw and their wives, Tatmadaw officers, officials and their families.

The Senior General and

party first paid homage to State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja presiding Sayadaw of Mandalay Maha Wizatayone Monastery Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Wisaraina Bhivamsa and Township Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Kan Oo Monastery Sayadaw Maha Gantha Vacaka Pandita Sasanadhaja Dhammakariya Bhaddanta Vilasa.

After the ordination processes, the Senior General and party offered day meal to the Sayadaws. Similarly, other communal ordinations were also organized at the Mingala Zayone Pali University Monastery and Yadanasan Pariyatti Monastery in Pyinmana Township.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with ROK Ambassador Lee Sang-hwa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives ROK Ambassador Lee Sang-hwa

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Lee Sang-hwa at the Union Attorney General's guest room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to starting the project to establish the

Myanmar Law Information System, jointly conducted by the Union Attorney General's Office and the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Government Legislation, with support from Korea International Cooperation Agency, in June 2018, the importance of legal information works to improve the rule of law and other

related works, increasing investment and copyright protection, technical cooperation in law processes and other cooperation matters.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint and Director-General U Min Swe.—Myanmar News Agency ■

“ I would firstly like to address the three branches of the sovereign power of the State, who have been entrusted with power according to the Constitution, to exercise mutual respect, understanding, and trust as they collaborate for the good of the people. Additionally, I wish to urge the media sector, which serve as the ears and eyes of the public, to understand the seriousness of their duties and to hold in high regard the public sector that they serve.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

“ No matter what kind of projects we implement, the main factor for success is collective endeavor. I am firmly convinced that we can overcome any challenge— no matter how big or difficult— if we can set aside prejudices of organizations and select groups, and work without pointing fingers and if every one of us makes concerted efforts with goodwill, wisdom, and courage.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

State Counsellor calls for new high-quality bridge to replace collapsed Myaungmya bridge

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited the site where the new Myaungmya bridge is being constructed and comforted the families of the two victims who were killed in a bridge collapse earlier this month.

After reading reports on the preparations for the new bridge and the free ferry services being provided to ensure the flow of commodities, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed on the need to ensure the quality of the new bridge for the safety of the people, and urged the officials concerned to scrutinize the project thoroughly.

She also stressed the importance of an independent quality control experts to oversee the quality control of the new bridge, which will replace the collapsed bridge linking Myaungmya and Labutta townships.

The Union Government would find an independent quality control body to oversee the quality of the new bridge..

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited the site after holding a peace talk with locals in Myaungmya yesterday morning.

She also instructed the officials concerned to inspect the quality of the remaining 29 suspension bridges across the country.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave instructions on providing free ferry services systematically with three barges and one two-decker ship to solve the transport difficulties in the short term, and urged the local authorities to launch La-



Collapsed bridge linking Myaungmya and Labutta townships, Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: MNA

butta-Ngaputaw-Pathien road construction works within two weeks as the budget for it had already been allocated.

Following the meeting, the State Counsellor offered condolences to the families of the two victims who died in the bridge collapse.

Later, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited the site chosen for the construction of a nursery training school (Myaungmya) by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

U Mya Win, Assistant Director of the Special team-15 of the Building Department of the Ministry of Construction; Naw Kapaw Shi, Principal of the Nursery Training School (Pathien); and Dr. Aung Kyaw Htwe, Head of the Health Department of Ayeyawady Region, reported on the arrangements being made to construct the

nursery school. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe also reported on the offers

by private donors who have offered to contribute to the project not only at the current chosen

site but also at the Myaungmya jute mill.

After hearing the reports, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave instructions for the construction of the Training School for Nurses in Myaungmya. She returned to Nay Pyi Taw in the evening. The State Counsellor began her visit to Myaungmya with a donation of offertory to Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sandavara, presiding Sayadaw of Zayamaydani Monastery of Myaungmya, in the morning.

During the visit to the monastery, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also visited the Inngyin Tree and Bo Tree, which were donated by her late mother Daw Khin Kyi in 1964, while she served as Myanmar's Ambassador to India, and sprinkled scented water on them.— Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor said the Union Government would find an independent quality control body to oversee the quality of the new bridge.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with the bereaved family members of the two people who died when a bridge in Myaungmya collapsed early this April. PHOTO: MNA

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted 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
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able to publish "Letter to the Editor"
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you submit a text longer than 500 words
please be aware that your letter will be
edited.YCDC constructing pandal to celebrate Yangon Walking Thingyan Festival at Maha Bandula Park. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

YCDC arranges walking Thingyan in three locations

THE Yangon City Development Committee has been planning the Walking Thingyan festival at three locations as a significant addition for this year's festival, according to the YCDC's Engineering Department (Road and Bridge).

In order to celebrate the Maha Thingyan Festival in Yangon Region, YCDC has planned to add the Walking Thingyan

festival, said a member of the Yangon City Development Committee. "The Walking Thingyan festival will be held in Yangon for the first time. We did not allow to sell alcohol and let vehicles enter the locations for the Walking Thingyan. In addition, people will have to throw water in traditional ways," an official said.

The Yangon Walking

Thingyan festival will be held at the Maha Bandula Park, Kandawgyi Myay Padaythar Gardan and U Oattama Park (Kan Taw Min Park) where donors will also treat visitors to traditional foods.

There will be 35 entertainment pandals and 60 water throwing pandals with entertainment in Yangon this year. —Myanmar Digital News ■

Women empowerment centre opens in Hlinethaya

A women's centre was opened in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon, on 8 April to provide legal assistance to women fighting for their rights, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

"The centre was opened to empower women, and legal consultants will provide counselling to women, as well as conduct computer and English proficiency training classes," said Daw Sandar Aung, manager of the women's centre.

"Women can consult with legal consultants if they have difficulties at the workplace. We have also opened a library at the centre," she added.

"As most of the women in Hlinethaya Township work in factories, we will conduct vocational training classes for them on their holidays. Currently, we have planned to hold training classes on Saturday and Sunday," she said. The centre will be open every day, and the library will remain open 24 hours. The centre was founded by all-Myanmar Federation Labour Unions with financial assistance from Germany agency (GIZ).—GNLM ■

Japan, South Korea officially recruit Myanmar fishermen

JAPAN and South Korea have officially recruited Myanmar fishermen, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

"Although Japan and South Korea have offered jobs to Myanmar fishermen, the local organisations still need to hold discussions with organisations in those countries. On the other hand, we need to produce more

skilled fishermen. Moreover, we are planning to issue an accreditation document, as well as provide training courses to the fishermen," said U Myint Zin Htoo, Deputy Director-General of the Fisheries Department.

"Local fishermen go overseas to get professional jobs. In fact, they don't get professional jobs in the fishery sector, and

so, end up working in other sectors. Therefore, local fishermen complain that they receive low salaries.

Recently, the Fisheries Department formulated the Sea Fisheries Law. Most of our local labourers do not receive the fully salary, and some of them resort to physical violence. Therefore, we will protect them

according to the law," he added.

Most Myanmar migrant workers go to Thailand through recruitment agencies. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has officially sent Myanmar workers to work in other countries under the memorandum of understanding signed between the two governments.—GNLM ■

Myanmar workers killed in Thailand bus crash

At least six migrant workers from Myanmar were killed and several others injured when a double-decker bus they were travelling in crashed into a ditch in northern Thailand, the second fatal accident in as many weeks involving migrants.

The bus was travelling late on Monday evening from the border town of Mae Sot to the province of Chachoengsao, a farming hub near Bangkok, the capital.

"Six people died and 30 were

injured," according to national police spokesman Kissana Phatanacharoen, adding that the driver, who told police the brakes were not working, had been charged with causing death by reckless driving.

Other media outlets in Thailand reported yesterday that 12 people were killed and 18 injured. Last month, a fire on board a bus in western Thailand killed 20 migrant workers.

The accidents come amid preparations for the Songkran

festival that ushers in the traditional Thai New Year. The Songkran festival is the equivalent of Myanmar's Thingyan.

The six Myanmar nationals were among a busload of 51 Myanmar migrant workers on their way from Mae Sot district of Tak province, about 420 km north of Bangkok, to Chachoengsao province in eastern Thailand, where they had been employed, Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said yesterday.

Mae Sot is a main gateway between Thailand and Myanmar, through which many Myanmar migrant workers come to work in Thailand. Seventeen people, including one Thai and 16 Myanmar nationals, were injured in the incident and were sent for treatment in a local hospital.

Up to 3 million people from Myanmar work in Thailand, with their remittances home contributing 5 per cent of the gross domestic product, the World Bank estimates.—GNLM ■

Myanmar fishery exports hit 20-year record high last FY

By May Thet Hnin

SOME 568,227.327 metric tonnes of fishery products, worth US\$717.7 million, were exported to foreign trade partners in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY), the highest volume in 20 years, according to an official release by the Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry.

This year, fishery exports through the Kawthoung border gate to Thailand improved considerably, according to the release.

Some 74,179.91 metric tonnes of fishery products, valued at \$167.1 million, were shipped to foreign countries in the 1997-1998 FY. In the 2011-2012 FY, fishery exports reached 386,981.324 metric tonnes with an estimated value of \$653.85 million.

“Myanmar exports only raw fish materials, but value-added



A workers select fish at the Nyaungtan Jetty in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

products are required to enhance the sector. To boost fishery exports in the coming years, concerted efforts are needed to develop the whole supply chain,

from fish farming and catching to processing. Additionally, we also need to conserve the fish resources for the future generations. Excessive exploitation

must be strictly avoided,” said U Tun Win Myint, Director of Yangon Region Fisheries Department.

Daw Toe Nanda Tin from

the Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF) said efforts were being made to adopt advanced farming technologies to enhance the fishery export sector. New markets are also being explored, he added. The federation will set up projects to improve the Myanmar fishery industry, in co-operation with the region and state officials concerned. Also, MFF has plans to establish a public company.

“If the country can farm fish and prawn varieties, which grow quickly, its fishery income is likely to reach \$1 billion. We are focusing on international marketing to determine which market we should enter. Moreover, we are also working on the supply level, so that we can meet the demands of the new markets,” said Daw Toe Nanda Tin.

There are more than 408,000 acres of fish and prawn lakes across Myanmar. ■

Myanmar's foreign trade deficit records \$3.97 billion last FY

MYANMAR'S external trade from 1 April through March during the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY) showed a deficit of US\$3.97 billion, according to statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

The government managed to cut the trade deficit last FY, as it was more than \$5.2 billion in the 2016-2017 FY.

Last FY, Myanmar's external trade with foreign countries amounted to \$33.3 billion, including \$14.67 billion in exports and \$18.64 billion in imports.

The trade deficit was \$91.9 million in the 2012-2013 FY, \$2.5 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$4.9 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY and

more than \$5.2 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, respectively, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO).

Concerted efforts are being made to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items, except essential goods.

Capital goods such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel and airplane parts are imported, but this FY, imports by the private sector decreased, owing to the changes in the automobile policy. Therefore, the total import value of the private and public sectors plunged by \$344.5 million, compared with the 2016-2017 FY.

Last FY, raw materials such

as petroleum-based products and plastic raw materials recorded the highest value in the import sector.

The import value is up by \$1.5 billion against the 2016-2017 FY.

Consumer products, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and palm oil, also flow into the domestic market, recording an increase of some \$277 million compared with the 2016-2017 FY.

Meanwhile, agro products, animal products, fisheries, forest products, minerals, finished industrial goods and other export products are shipped to foreign countries. Only forest products showed a slight decline in exports.—Ko Khant ■



An employee works at a money exchange counter. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Kyat to appreciate strongly against dollar in post-Thingyan period

The kyat is expected to continue appreciating against the dollar after the Thingyan Festival, experts said.

In addition to the depreciation of the US dollar in the global market, the import of vehicles has declined in the auto market under the new automobile policy. The demand for dollars is also low because of a decline in remittances of importers, as businessmen imported fewer goods compared with the previous years due to the short holiday this year.

With the US dollar index

dropping below 90 points on 9 April, the US dollar to Kyat interbank exchange rate in Myanmar's currency market slipped to Ks1,324 yesterday. The exchange rate was down by more than Ks20 in the past three months this year.

Yesterday, the dollar selling price was around Ks1,324, while the buying price was Ks1,319, according to money exchange counters.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank of Myanmar has set the exchange rate at Ks1,330 per dollar.—Ko Khant ■

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Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture striving for long-lasting of the Sasana and preserving and protecting cultural heritage

By Naing Linn Kyi
PHOTO: MNA

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture held the 70th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida examination from 26 December 2017 to 27 January 2018 for 33 days at Maha Pasana Cave in Kaba Aye, Yangon, during the second-year term of the government in office. Eighty-eight

members of the Sangha passed the examination in various categories. At the Dhammacariya examinations 3455 monks passed the examination in different subjects. Under the patronage of the ministry the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon was consecrated with 18000 members of the Sangha on 1 January 2018, the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw was consecrated with 10000 members of the Sangha on 20 January 2018,



The Religious Affairs and Culture Minister at a ceremony in Shwebonthamuni Pagoda in Padaung Township, Bago Region.



The Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayasdaaws meet with Pope Francis during his visit to Myanmar on 29 November 2017.



International students visit Yangon University as part of the ASEAN Cultural and Language Learning Programme in May 2017.



The Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, left, Bharmo Sayadaw, centre, visit the Maha Lokha Pala Sutaung Pyae Pagoda in Pyinsa Sanpya Village, Mandalay Region on 31 December 2017.

and provisions were offered to 20000 monks in Mandalay on 21 January 2018.

Reforms

The new rules of the Shwedagon Pagoda Broad of Trustees were rewritten under the approval of the Union Attorney-General Office on 30 June 2016 and the Pagoda Broad of Trustees was reformed. The pagoda received a donation of over K 8 billion till February 2017-2018.

As some acts of monopolization and corruption were found at Kyaikhtyoe Pagoda, the Pagoda Board of Trustees was reformed on 4 July 2016 and rules were rewritten. Heat-resistant marble slabs were laid on the platform and two 260,000-gallon tanks were raised to the height of nearly five feet. Kyaikhtyoe Pagoda received nearly K 7.7 billion as donations and the Maha Myat Muni Pagoda received nearly K 2 billion as donations up to February 2017-2018. The pagoda broad of trustees of Botahtaung, Kyauktawgyi, Maha Wizaya, Buddha's Tooth Relic and Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye pagodas were also reformed.

At the 23rd convocation of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) religious titles were conferred on 128 monks. At the 33rd convocation of the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay) religious titles were conferred on 51 monks.

Monastic education schools

Myanmar had 1547 monastic education schools where 7862

teachers are giving lessons to 309273 students in academic year 2017-2018. The government within its two-year period provided over K 140 million as monthly financial provision for teachers.

International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University-ITBMU

A total of 269 students including monks – 147 of Myanmar and 122 from abroad – were attending various courses at the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in academic year 2017-2018. The bill on ITBMU was sent to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 21-7-2017.

The interfaith dialogue groups were formed – one at the central level, 11 at region/state level, 39 at district level, and 76 at township level totaling 127.

Unity among all religions

The interfaith dialogue groups were formed – one at the central level, 11 at region/state level, 39 at district level, and 76 at township level totaling 127.

E Government tasks

Lay persons and monks from the country and abroad can visit www.kbrl.gov.mm for Kaba Aye Pitaka Museum in Yangon, www.nlm-npt.gov.mm for Nay Pyi taw National Library, and [\[mdy.mm\]\(http://mdy.mm\) for National Culture and Fine Arts University in Mandalay which are the Website Domain Names of the e-Library. Work is under way to open more e-Libraries. The Website and Facebook of the ministry has released information for 63 times to counter the false information on the social media and for 118 times about the religious activities all around the country.](http://www.nuac-</p>
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World heritage list

Three ancient Pyu cities – Beikthano, Hanlin and Srikistra – become World heritage sites in 2010. Efforts are being made to put Bagan ancient cultural region and MraukU ancient cultural region into World heritage list. The ministry in cooperation with the respective organizations and individuals from the country and abroad is conducting research work, field studies, meetings to put more historical sites and places into UNESCO World Heritage List. Although Bagan was hit by an earthquake, cultural preservation activities were conducted in cooperation with foreign experts for 109 times.

Intangible and tangible cultural heritage

The ministry has been rediscovering the legends, languages, performing arts, social customs, traditions, knowledge on the nature and the universe, traditional handicrafts in all regions and it could rediscovered and preserved 312 categories within a two-year period.

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Ceremony for paying respect to 20,000 monks in Chanmya Thazi Airport, Mandalay Region.



The Rector of the International Theravāda Buddhist Missionary University confers the diploma to a graduate.

Religious Affairs and Culture Ministry striving for long-lasting of the Sasana and preserving and protecting cultural heritage

FROM PAGE-6

The ministry has been recollecting the ancient heritage all around the country. It is rewarding the people who present ancient items or show ancient places. Within a two-year period it can put 48 items under its care.

Laws and rules

The laws to protect and preserve ancient artifacts and edifices were enacted in accord with the wish of the ministry. The ministry also formed committees, held meeting with the participation of international experts, took suggestions from relevant bodies and discussed the bills to protect and preserve ancient artifacts and edifices.

Of the 47 protective cultural zones 18 have human settlements. So the ministry is striving for the emergence of a law that will ensure a win-win situation for the locals and the ancient artifacts protection work.

The ministry is conducting field tours and research work in trying to protect and preserve the cultures, performing arts, musical instruments and artifacts of the ethnic races such as Kayan, Padaung, Kayin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine, Kachin, and Chin.

The duty to protect and preserve the traditional performing arts also falls on the national races. So the ministry is launching programmes to enhance the public awareness of the cultural protection tasks. It is conducting performing arts conservation courses for teachers as a way of encouraging students to cherish and value their culture and performing arts. So, the peo-

ple will be able to ward off the penetration of alien culture and lifestyles into the country.

Books and papers

The ministry is also collecting, compiling and publishing books and papers on historical research, ethnic literature and culture. Up to now it has published four books and is preparing to print ten more. Historical Research and National Library is collecting books, magazines, journals, newspapers, gazettes, compilations and theses. The library of Historical Research Department has collected 2813 books, the National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) 30634 books, the National Library (Yangon) 10294 books and the branch of National Library (Yangon) 21477 books.

The Myanmar Historical Commission was reformed with 18 fulltime members and 15 part-time members. Based on the collected evidence, information and data, the finds of the field research books and papers on history are being published. Seven books were published in the current fiscal year and preparations are under way to distribute more.

The steering committee, the action committee and subcommittees have already formed to successfully host the 17th Southeast Asia Librarians Conference and related meetings from 2 to 5 May 2018. A combined team comprising members of Myanmar Historical Commission, palm leaf treatise experts, experts on ancient liter-

ature and related departments was formed to protect and preserve palm leaf treatises. The team is now achieving progress in its work. Work is under way to move the National Library to downtown Yangon in fiscal year 2018-2019 for the convenience of visitors.

Of the 47 protective cultural zones 18 have human settlements. So the ministry is striving for the emergence of a law that will ensure a win-win situation for the locals and the ancient artifacts protection work.

The National Culture and Fine Arts University held its 20th anniversary convocation in December 2016 at the University Convocation Hall. Various kinds of degrees including the honorary doctorate degree were conferred on 130 persons.

The university sent final year students of various major subjects to Bagan in Mandalay Region to study ancient cultural heritage there and Dawei in Taninthayi Region to study the culture and traditions and Dawei people, one of the highly civilized ethnic races of Myanmar.

Myanmar hosted the second NUAC Orchestra Cinematic Music Showcase 2017 at the National Theatre in Yangon on 26 February 2017.

The showcase presented movie songs of Myanmar and the world through a combination

of Myanmar and western music.

Students of Music, Dance, Painting, Sculpture, Theatre and Cinema branch of the Fine Arts Department have to learn subjects on intangible and tangible cultural heritage, Myanmar, linguistics, civilization, English, international relations and Myanmar history.

The National Culture and Fine Arts University (Mandalay) sponsored India-Myanmar workshop and joint performance programme, joint dance programme between Myanmar dancers and Indian classical dance troupe, the entertainment of Restaurant of Japan and workshop, the workshop on the imaginative of world of

Paper and moving Paper Puppets in cooperation with Israel, meeting with Tokyo University of the Arts for giving lectures on culture, meeting with Israeli film directors and diplomats on filming the university, workshop

on cooperation programme with BSRU university of Thailand, China, USA, meeting on holding "Next Level" hip-hop, the One Asia Classic Orchestra Selection Workshop, cooperation program with TUA university of Japan, Stop - Motion Animation Workshop, the Kuricorder & Friends Concert in Myanmar. The university also took part in "Pagoda Flower of Myanmar" staged by Chinese artists, held talks with Yangon-based Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and took part in the entertainment programme marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Russia.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture is preserving, rediscovering and collecting cultural and literature heritages and national characters, reinvigorating patriotism, producing experts in cultural subjects and opening museums and library in addition to preserving, promoting and propagating of the Sasana. ■

(Translated by TMT)



National University of Arts and Culture, Mandalay collaborates with the Tokyo University of Arts.

Ending wildlife trafficking is everyone's responsibility

THE illegal wildlife trade is one of the biggest challenges for many countries. Globally, illegal trafficking of wild animals and parts is ranked fourth after the illegal arms trade, the drugs trade and human trafficking. The respective organizations are cooperating with Traffic, the wildlife trade monitoring international network, to be able to control the trafficking of rare species.

To prevent smuggling of illegal wildlife to foreign countries and to prevent wild animals from extinction, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw confirmed, clause by clause, the bill on the protection of wildlife in the conservation of natural areas in the previous session of the parliamentary meeting and the bill will be made into law.

Within a 20-year period from 1994 to 2014, millions of tonnes of hardwood in the country were lost through illegal logging, as well as rare wildlife such as elephants, bears, tigers, leopards, peacocks and snakes, all of which fell prey to poaching. The incumbent government has reformed the national-level task force for anti-wildlife and forest products trading in 2016.

Ending wildlife trafficking is a responsibility for all of us. If we cannot prevent such illegal trading, our wildlife remains in peril.

The legislative body, hand-in-hand with regional and state governments, wildlife conservation groups and the forest department, has raised public awareness of wildlife trafficking in big cities including Mandalay and cities in border areas. Similarly, the same awareness was raised at souvenir shops against sales of materials made of parts of those animals. The forestry department is gathering data about smuggling of wild animals and their parts in border areas with the assistance of international non-governmental organizations; the Wildlife Conservation Society and the World Wildlife Fund. Surprise checks are being made at border check points. Ivory, snakes, tortoises and pangolins are among the most common items being smuggled. Meanwhile, by launching the 10-year project in February for conservation of Myanmar elephants, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has taken another important step to protect and conserve wildlife and to prevent conflicts between wild elephants and humans. Every week, at least one elephant is killed in Myanmar. Elephant skin, tail hairs, teeth and ivory are sold at tourist spots around the country and in markets in Yangon and Mandalay. There is also large trading along the border regions of China, and the area known as "the Golden Triangle" where three countries meet - Myanmar, Laos and Thailand.

Ending wildlife trafficking is a responsibility for all of us. If we cannot prevent such illegal trading, our wildlife remains in peril. ■

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

By Dr. Khin Zaw
RETIRED RECTOR
YANGON UNIVERSITY OF
EDUCATION

EDUCATION or Pedagogy, or Schooling is a social process, and improvements in resources (budget), technology and the quality of student and teaching inputs should in principle (or theoretically) be able to enhance its overall quality. But a brief scrutiny of various test scores around the world, however, will reveal a rather baffling paradox. In many countries, large increases in average real expenditure per student and other measures of school resources over the recent years have not been matched by a comparable increase in average test scores.

Serious pedagogic research shows that Mathematics and Science test scores in many OECD (developed) countries mainly fell low, even though most of them increased real expenditure per

Education Budget and Pedagogic Efficiency

pupil by more than 100%, while others continued to increase spending significantly. Despite this evidence, however, most people lay and learned tend to focus particularly on further increasing educational expenditure and pedagogic resource levels.

It is said that many countries all over the world are having quite a difficult time increasing

average test scores. Some authors and pedagogues have argued that the impact of television (and internet) on children and their use of time, changes in pedagogy towards less test-oriented teaching methods, the power of teachers unions and improvements in labour market opportunities for women... allowing highly capable women

to move into professions other than teaching.. have each had a negative impact on the prospects for optimal learning in schools.

In short, educational budget or resources power to produce better student performance is rather quite limited.

Modern educational research has pointed out that Education spending is necessary,

but not sufficient for Educational progress. There is a wide variance not only in countries' public spending on Education, but in what that spending produces as measured by average years of schooling completed by the population concerned.

There is an apt example of two countries both spending the same percentage of GDP on Education,

Unlocking Potential towards Knowledge Economy in Myanmar

Dr G R Sinha
PROFESSOR, MYANMAR INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANDALAY

KNOWLEDGE Economy (KE) plays significant role in overall economic growth of any country, so as in Myanmar. Knowledge economy is so powerful tool that it can transform the country and take the nation to sustainable growth along with brilliant GDP. Human capital is most important among all capitals that is essential component of knowledge economy, rather backbone of KE. Therefore, the ways and means to make human capital much stronger and competent need to be always contemplated upon; devised upon; revised if necessary so as to keep on improving knowledge economy. This article discusses about an overview of knowledge economy in Myanmar and how the great nation could move forward towards satisfactory KE with the available resources by unlocking its true potential.

Unlocking the potential includes requires many things, to

name few; native talents be given all opportunity of international exposure and education in Myanmar itself; development of multiple intelligence in young minds to make them globally competent; increase in participation of youth of Myanmar in international corporate, academics and research based organizations. This needs international collaboration with reputed institutes all across the world; which would provide better opportunity and visibility to young minds of the country. Recently, Myanmar has been found gearing up in all such endeavors, which is great step towards moving in right direction for becoming good KE country. Following are major observations; suggestions; thoughts that could help the great nation in realizing its potential and become great KE nation:

Capacity Building in Higher Education and Greater Academic Engagement: Institute of International education has already launched a path-breaking course on "Connecting Words: International Relations for Higher Education Institutions". This would build; rebuild and strengthen



higher education capacity and improve the academic engagement at global level bringing foreign universities in the country for its youth or facilitating the international education through collaboration with reputed foreign institutions.

Expansion of person to person network; institution to institution network and country to country network through such academic collaborations would greatly help the young minds of Myanmar in realizing their native potential and they would be able to carry out viable research

work as well along with brilliant academic impact.

Human Capital Development: Since human capital is first and foremost component in making any nation a big KE country and therefore more focus is needed in this direction. This requires a lot of funds and hence availability of funds has to be ensured; or mechanism of fund generating schemes needs to be evolved; devised; quality of education needs to be improved continuously; research culture has to be inculcated among youth in universities and institutions;

and whatever is required for educating, creating awareness; and finally producing excellent human capitals in the nation. Human capital only returns a lot serving in the nation or even from outside the country.

Human capital once developed would showcase and demonstrate the students and youth generation after generation how to take the country ahead and transform it for the benefit of society and mankind.

Investment has to be done positively in the direction of human capital development and fostering research and creativity in the students. If unavailability of fund is a major cause of concerns then the policymakers may think upon the alternative ways of the funds for these schemes.

education, where as in one country the student population completes less than two years of schooling, while in the other more than 11 years.

A few key factors may indicate why the effectiveness of Education spending variance so much.

These are Education (Pedagogic) efforts, unit costs, which will be heavily driven by teacher salaries relative to GDP per capita, pupil / teacher ratio, and governance; student flow efficiency, or repetition and dropout flow efficiency, or repetition and dropout.

A final implication for teachers, students, and parents is that they cannot hope to achieve Optimum Quality Education just by their national efforts to invest high in Education; key parameters of their Education System must also be within reasonable norms of efficiency.

This is the hidden crux of the matter. ■

PRESS RELEASE

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr. John Nielsen as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. John Nielsen was born on 7 July 1957. He graduated with Master of Arts, Political & Social Sciences in 1987. He was Head of Department of Middle East, North Africa and Latin America Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1996 and Deputy Head of Mission of Danish Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia in 1998. From 2001 to 2007, he served in various capacities at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served as Danish Ambassador to Vietnam and Lao People's Democratic Republic with resident in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2010. Since 2015, he has been serving as Danish Ambassador to Spain and Andorra with resident in Madrid. He is married with two children.— Myanmar News Agency ■

U Moe Kyaw Aung appointed as Non-Resident Ambassador of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Bhutan

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar concurrently accredited to the Kingdom of Bhutan.—Myanmar News Agency ■

POEMS

Minutes of Merit Everyday

Minutes of merit every day,
Like glittering raindrops
showering down on the arid land,
Could bring little pools of water that turn
into a stream, joining a broad river and the wide,
wide sea.

Life is brief. This we all know
but we often ignore it.

Live your precious moments of life,
Through minutes of merit every day.

By Zaw Tun

Truth will always be the winner

"A lie will go round the world while the truth is putting its boots on."

"Rumour spreads like forest fire."

"One lie is enough to question all truths."
Those sayings are the power of the lies,
But the truth will be the winner every time.

In the movies,
The villain manipulates the whole story,
Finally, the truth will come out as a victory.

Once you use a lie,
You have to cover it all the time.

Once your lie gets caught,
People will always see you in doubt.
"Once a liar, always a liar", they think,
And you will lose their valuable friendship.
So please do not tell a lie or don't be tricky,
Because it hurts others and will lose your dignity.

"Honesty is the best policy", they say,
"May all the beings be free from the tricks." I pray...

By Meiji Soe

SEE PAGE-10

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye leads delegation to Bangladesh

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye led a delegation to Bangladesh yesterday evening to discuss preparations made to receive returnees to Myanmar. Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, along with UEHRD Chief Coordinator Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet; Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Chairperson Dr.

Thet Thet Zin; Director-General of Disaster Management Department Dr. Ko Ko Naing; Director-General of the International Organisations and Economic Department U Kyaw Moe Tun; Interfaith dialogue group's Dr. Hla Tun, U Than Lwin and U Tin Myint; and other officials departed from Yangon International Airport.—Myanmar News Agency ■



The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye poses for a photo before departure for Bangladesh yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin donates cash for the two 20-KVA generators to Deputy Minister U Soe Aung in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Cash donated to buy two generators for Maungtau region reception centres

A CASH donation ceremony to buy two 20-KVA generators for the Maungtau region's Taung Pyo Letwe and Nga Khu Ya reception centres was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his opening speech, Deputy Minister for State Counsellor's Office U Khin Maung Tin said that under the arrangement made by the union ministries, state government and the Tatmadaw, shelter, water, electricity, toilet facilities, food and transport would be provided at the Taung Pyo Letwe and Nga Khu Ya reception centres. However, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the Ministry of Social Welfare,

Relief and Resettlement have demanded two generators at the reception centres to receive returnees. The NRPC will donate the required cash to buy the two 20-KVA generators, explained the Deputy Minister.

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin then donated US\$14,000 for the two 20-KVA generators. Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung accepted the donation and in return presented a certificate of honour.

Later, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, joint secretary of the Implementation Committee on recommendations of Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, delivered the words of thanks. — Myanmar News Agency ■

70th Anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Commemorative Book launched

70th ANNIVERSARY of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Commemorative Book "THE SEVEN-DECADE JOURNEY OF MOFA 1947-2017" was launched at the ceremony to commemorate 71st Anniversary of the Ministry, Nay Pyi Taw.

This book comprises 26 articles in English written by Myanmar well-experienced diplomats: U Thant, first Asian United Nations Secretary General; U Ohn Gyaw, Foreign Minister (Retd.); U Nyunt Swe, Deputy Foreign Minister (Retd.); U

Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for Ministry of International Cooperation; U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce; Retired Ambassadors: U Aung Thant, U Tin Kyaw Hlaing, U Nyunt Maung Shein, U Mya Than and U Tint Swai; Retired Directors-General: U Aye Lwin, U Tint Deir, U Than Tun; current Myanmar Ambassadors: Daw Yin Yin Myint, U Tha Aung Nyun and U Kyaw Zeya and present foreign service personnel. It is the first time in the ministry's history to record Foreign Ser-

vice personnel's collective – seventy years. It also illustrates the history of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international relations, true stories of Myanmar diplomats in discharging their duties in the first line of defence.

The book is available to those who are interested in making of history in Myanmar's diplomacy and international relations at the price of 5,000 Kyats per copy in both Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon Offices.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Unlocking Potential towards Knowledge ...

FROM PAGE-8-9

This could do wonders in skill development and enriching human capital in native areas of scope in the industrial sectors.

Sharing and Caring the Talent: The country is rich in producing vegetables, fruits and paddy and this needs a lot of scientific revolutions so as to make few significant contributions in these areas that would not only help productivity but attract more and more foreign investments. The collaborative investments get the talents of Myanmar as well as other parts of the nation in exploring the possible research based economy in the area of agriculture by combining the efforts and scientific knowledge of local youth and other researchers from the world. So, sharing its native knowledge; updating with latest knowledge; involving others from outside would help develop human capital in the nation itself.

Strengthening ICT Initi-

atives: As far ICT (Information and Communication Technology) tools and initiatives are concerned, the nation has to take very bold steps so that common ICT tools are available to common masses and they can use all ICT enabled services for service sector and other beneficial schemes aimed at elevating the poor and common masses. In addition to this, modern and global education needs ICT support very much and therefore ICT efforts that are already being put by the country, needs to be speeded up for facilitating the e-based or ICT based education and then the outreach of education would benefit faster and larger.

Knowledge Management Platform can act as Big Brother: The country's knowledge management platform launched for bringing big financial services to Myanmar, can act as big brother in helping the institutions and young minds in becoming good human capitals that would

further attract other developed countries in Myanmar for joint academic and research activities.

Recognizing Native Intelligence and giving them Opportunity to Flourish: Most importantly, all native intelligence in different areas of industrial and societal growth need to be given importance. The local intelligence of youth has to be promoted; encouraged; flourished and propagated all across the world.

There are so many things that could be written on how to improve knowledge economy of a nation but this article has attempted to bring important points that would help the nation in developing the human capital so that knowledge economy is improved significantly on continuous basis that would ultimately benefit the common masses and the nation at large.

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

State Counsellor holds Peace Talk in Ayeyawady

FROM PAGE-1

Peace was destroyed sometimes because the people were poor. People were not happy about problems related to economy. They could not stand it anymore and peace was destroyed. Peace and development is inseparable. We need to keep this in mind forever.

Some don't look at their region or their country. They only look at the development of their small township. They don't look outside of it. It can't be done this way. But we still need to look for the development of our township. Like your own house. If peace didn't prevail in the family, if your family is lacking anything, even if your ward is peaceful and calm, you wouldn't be peaceful and calm.

However, if you alone, your home, your family alone is well-off, but if your neighbours are poor, it wouldn't be good either. As soon as you went out, you'll see the sufferings of your neighbours and you wouldn't feel good. That is why your worry is not yours only. It is a worry for your country. In the same way, the worry of the country is your worry. Only when there is peace all around could you be at peace. If all is at peace, you'll be more at peace. You can share your peace with others so that they can also be at peace. Discussion should be made with this spirit", she said.

U Soe Hlaing Oo, Phyu Sin Myitta Development Group

I think a good and correct 'cetana' is the main requirement. I can take part in the peace process through my computer business. It is important to make a decision based on good and correct 'cetana.' If you do something to others that you wouldn't want others to do to you, is it right? Be it within a family or with others, if we deal in a way that we want ourselves to be dealt with, there'll be no more hate speeches.

To tell the truth, subjects I was taught in life were not used for my life. As the subject was inadequate, I needed to read at the school library or books published abroad. Even when reading it, I was unable to read well. Request had to be made for those who know to translate it or I had to ask the help of the teachers.

Daw Nant Yi Sai Na, Accounting Supervisor, Eskkal Hotel

For me, peace is important



U Soe Hlaing Oo.



Daw Nant Yi Sai Na.



U Win Naing.



Daw Pyone Pyone Aye.



U Zaw Tin Moe.



U Aung Kyi Myint.

for a country. Only then can the life of the people be peaceful. Only when it is peaceful can education, health and economy develop. That is why peace is needed. A vision appears while I talk about peace. There are people fleeing from conflicts while surrounded by gun smoke. Our people can see this but we can't do anything about it. One thing is for sure. People don't like conflicts or not being peaceful.

Another thing is, within our society, be it in a family or a ward or a township, it is not peaceful to see a student age child selling cigarettes and stuff because he/she couldn't attend school. Many who lived a simple life are not at peace because their livelihood isn't very convenient. If they became sick, they can go to the hospital but since they didn't have enough money, they couldn't buy medicines and treatments. Some in the rich circle can go to hospital and get treatment. Some even go overseas for treatment. But not much care or support is provided to the poor. Then, they (the rich people) will not be at peace because they saw the suffering of the poor. This is the peace we are unable to get.

U Win Naing, restaurant owner

Peace is quite important for Myanmar. It is yet to develop because there is no peace. If there is no peace, there can be no de-

velopment. That is why we need to walk down the path toward peace consistently. People suffer because there are conflicts. Lives and limbs were lost. Children could not get an education peacefully. Without education, there wouldn't be development. Without development, the country will remain poor. That is why the peace process is to be followed consistently and priority should be given to it. People in the whole country are expected to want peace in the same way as I want peace. Only when there is peace can other sectors develop.

Because of peace, the Ayeyawady Region has developed a bit. Education can be obtained. Transportation and communications is becoming better. As people can earn a good living, Ayeyawady Region is starting to develop. This is the outcome of peace. In the same way, it is important to have peace all over the country. It is not possible for our region to develop alone. Those living at the border and on the hills need to develop. The country is developed only when there is equal development throughout the whole country.

The education I received was not very useful for me. I just try out many businesses. The first business of fish breeding was a failure. Now I started a restaurant business. It is turning out quite well. I start this on my own thought without using the edu-

cation I received. The education I received was totally inappropriate with what I'm doing. It was totally useless.

Daw Pyone Pyone Aye, fishery business owner

Peace is most important for the country. My family business was in the fishery business. During my parent's time, it was not peaceful. They have to pay protection money to armed personnel. If protection money is not paid, their workers or boats were taken away. Owners need to negotiate with them. The workers and boats were released after negotiation. Even then, the government jailed the business owner (for dealing with insurgents?).

Now that the Ayeyawady Region is at peace, all can sleep well, eat well, get an education and do businesses. However, our brothers and sisters who are in the conflict areas could not sleep or eat well. They are worried about when fighting will erupt. So they could not do business. In such a situation, how can the economy in that region develop?

If the economy could not develop, education will not be good. In turn, the economy of the country will be at the bottom. Wish for the long running conflict to end.

I want to see our country at the same level as the other countries. I plead for implementing peace without prejudice against one another or an organisation

against another. Peace can be achieved only through understanding and forgiveness.

U Zaw Tin Moe, crab merchant

I have the experience of not having peace. I don't feel well if I think about those living in places without peace.

Everyone in this country wanted peace. I'm sure there are many who want peace more than I do. They are the people who are facing the ravages of war. Yet, there are many more who want peace more than these people too. They are the Tatmadaw personnel and ethnic nationals in the ethnic armed organizations. Because they are in the fighting, risking their lives, I'm sure they want peace the most.

No one would want to go to a conflict area to develop it. No doctor, no teacher, no investor would think of going to a conflict area.

If the NLD government, elected by the people, who thought for the people, is unable to achieve peace, I don't think we will ever get peace.

U Aung Kyi Myint, farmer

I want to see more development in education. A private company was permitted to build a school in our village in 2016. Only 50 per cent is completed to date. Locals want to see this school completed. Another school in another village nearby is also incomplete.

U Aung Myint Myat, education personnel

Without education, there can't be peace. And without peace, education is useless. None of us will go to a place where it is not peaceful. Locals who are educated abroad could not return to their places of origin to teach because there is no peace. Both peace and education is required.

For peace, the education ministry can contribute by organizing students to engage in sports. If sports events are held in school, the students will come together bringing unity. Sports will support peace. Sports events for all ethnic nationals to participate together should be conducted while they are young. They will understand one another and one another's tradition and culture. In this way, sports in the education sector will support peace. To achieve peace, education and sports shouldn't be left out.

SEE PAGE-12

State Counsellor holds Peace Talk in Ayeyawady

FROM PAGE-11

When the Kachin national Aung La N Sang become a double champion in MNA, not only the Kachin national but we were also happy. All ethnic nationals were happy. He was participating in the peace process through his sport. That is why I want to say that sport plays an important role in the peace process.

Yesterday's event was attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Thant Sin Maung and U Han Zaw, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Deputy Ministers U Min Thu and U Kyaw Lin, Region Hluttaw Speaker and representatives, regional government member ministers, departmental officials, civil society organisations, town elders, National League for Democracy members, students, youths and members of the public.

Daw Phyo Ei Kyaing, Entrepreneurs Association

Daw Phyo Ei Kyaing said when she hears the word peace, she thinks of non-discrimination and unity among the different ethnic groups in Myanmar working together to develop the country. She said that regardless of a person's religious affiliation or place in the country, if everyone had the same citizenship spirit, then Myanmar could be collectively developed.

She said their Entrepreneurs Association is working under the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA) and therefore have a clear vision and clearly defined objectives.



U Aung Myint Myat.

She said she believed that the youth are a resource of a country and that if they all received the same standard of education across the country, then their critical thinking would develop. She said if there is peace, then entrepreneurship will develop and so the youths of Myanmar will follow the State Counsellor in her efforts for national reconciliation and peace.

The State Counsellor replied that everyone needs to think of how to prevent the spread of hate speech and promote good practices through the use of technology. She said Myanmar's education system is still weak, but they are trying to fix it. She said that a lack of English language proficiency prevents people from accessing documents and journals from other countries. She said English language proficiency is needed to be on par with the world as all of the important documents in the world are in the English language. She said the things taught in school are currently not applicable in the real world and that she promotes vocational training for finding a



Daw Phyo Ei Kyaing.

professional career.

The State Counsellor said that peace and development go hand in hand. She said that only when a nation is economically wealthy will its people have social security. She said that the current status of young children dropping out of school to make a living is not something that should be happening and the Union Government is doing all it can to alleviate the situation. These children may have to sell cigarettes and betel nut on the road and that it isn't practical to tell people not to smoke or chew betel nut to stop the children from entering this line of work without finding an alternate source of income for these children. She said that peace is realized when every citizen has peace of mind, and while no one can provide 100 per cent peace of mind to everyone, it is possible to provide safety and security to the people with firm rule of law. Another point the State Counsellor made was that every citizen and business should pay their due taxes, which will enable the government to provide required

services to the public.

The State Counsellor said that concerning the recent incident in Myaungmya, the public's focus is on the bridge and for the construction of high-quality bridges and roads, for which the expertise and finances of the people are needed. She said that no matter how skilled an engineer is, they cannot build a safe and strong bridge if they do not have the essential tools and materials for the job. Therefore, it is the people's duty to pay their taxes and it is the government's job to use them in a responsible way for the public.

The State Counsellor said that sports are important for the mental development of young people and that she wants to encourage young men to take up teaching as a profession as there is a lack of male teachers. She said that many people only wish to be a leader but have no motive to start from the ground up to grow into an effective leader. She said that parents and elders should teach children that everyone and every role in society is important.

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe said that if people are given more health education and become more health literate as the State Counsellor wishes, the people may stop consuming alcohol, smoking and eating overly fatty, salty and sweet food that can lead to unwanted diseases.

He said that their Ministry has published a guidebook that will be distributed to their 30,000 basic health employees in the coming months. The guidebook will have chapters on important medical issues like vaccinations.

The State Counsellor then

replied to an online question asking why the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement (NCA) and peace process does not have the cooperation of all the ethnic armed organisations (EAO). She said that even though everyone desires peace and wishes for the fighting to end, a lack of trust from both sides is a reason why some EAOs have not signed the NCA yet. She said that if a person has belief and trusts in themselves, then they will be able to trust other people. She said if a person believes that they can achieve peace for their community through non-violent means, then they will be willing to take risks to achieve that goal.

The State Counsellor then said that she hopes that this peace talk will inspire and motivate everyone to think of how to spread peace in their community. She said that the entire country needs to be united to face the challenges of the rest of the world. Therefore it is important and a meaningful wish for everyone to wonder what role they can contribute to this end. She said that this thinking is the start towards unity and peace.

The State Counsellor then replied to a question asking what the State Counsellor's deepest wish is right now. She said her wish is for every citizen to become accountable and responsible regarding their duties. She said that the majority of people are interested in what benefits they may receive but not in what responsibilities they need to maintain. She said that her last wish would be to take full responsibility and accomplish her goals.—Myanmar News Agency (Unofficial Translation) ■

Seven Tatmadaw members convicted of killing terrorists in Maungtaw

FOUR officers and three men of other ranks who were involved in killing ten terrorists in Indin Village, Maungtaw Township, were sentenced to jail terms with hard labour, according to the Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

An investigation team led by Lt-Gen Aye Win of the Office of Commander in Chief (Army), carried out the investigation into the case and interrogated

21 officers and other ranks of the Tatmadaw, three police, 13 members of Security Unit No. 8, six departmental staff and six villagers from Indin Village from 20 December, 2017, to 2 January 2018.

According to the statement released by the Tatmadaw True News Information Team, four officers were dismissed and sentenced to 10 years hard labour each under the Section

71 of the Tatmadaw Act as they were found guilty in the killing.

Three other ranks who were also convicted were demoted, dismissed and sentenced to 10 years hard labour.

The members of the police and civilians who were also found guilty for the killing are being prosecuted under the law.—Myanmar News Agency ■



North Korea celebrates 106th birth anniversary of founding father

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo and his wife were welcomed by Democratic People's Republic of Korea Ambassador to Myanmar Jong Ho Bom at a ceremony to mark the 106th birth anniversary of its founding father Kim Il Sung, which was held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon at 6.30 p.m. on 10 April.—GNLM

Indonesia seizes alleged ‘slave ship’ wanted by Interpol

JAKARTA — Indonesia seized an alleged “slave ship” following a dramatic high seas chase sparked by an Interpol alert after the vessel escaped capture in China and Mozambique, authorities said on Tuesday.

Interpol tipped off Indonesian authorities that the stateless STS-50, a vessel with a notorious maritime rap sheet, would be entering the Southeast Asian nation’s waters with authorities concerned the crew were being forced to work.

The boat, captured on Friday some 60 miles (95 kilometres) from Weh Island in Aceh province, had 20 Indonesians, two Ukrainians and eight Russians aboard, including the captain, a senior navy official said.

The crew have been detained and are now being questioned.

The Indonesian sailors said they were not paid and that their passports and other documents had been taken away as soon as they boarded the ship nearly a year ago, the navy



Indonesian military guarding the crew next to a seized alleged “slave ship” at the naval port of Sabang. PHOTO: AFP

said.

“These Indonesians had been sailing for 10 months without being paid so that’s why we suspect there was slavery happening,” Indonesian navy deputy chief Achmad Taufiqerachman said.

The 258-metre (850 foot) long vessel, which was flying the flag of tiny African nation Togo, has previously flown flags from a string of countries including Japan, South Korea and Mozambique,

authorities said.

It was on the run after escaping detention in China and also fleeing seizure in Mozambique.

Before it was caught in Indonesia, the vessel used several other names including Sea Breeze, Andrey Dolgov, and Aida, according to the fisheries ministry.

The vessel was equipped with some 600 gillnets — banned in some waters — targeting cod species and Antarctic

toothfish. It is also suspected of involvement in “organised transnational crime”, the ministry added without elaborating.

Two years ago, Indonesian warships detained a Chinese trawler wanted by Interpol in Argentina.

Jakarta has launched a tough crackdown on illegal fishing which involves sinking foreign vessels caught fishing without a permit after impounding the boats and removing the crews.—AFP ■

Kim makes first official mention of US-N Korea talks

SEOUL — North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un has acknowledged the prospect of talks with the US, state media reported on Tuesday, in his first official mention of dialogue with Washington ahead of a planned summit with President Donald Trump.

Trump agreed last month to a landmark summit with the nuclear-armed North but with no specific dates or venue set, there had been questions over Pyongyang’s intention to participate. On Monday, Kim discussed the “the prospect of the DPRK-US dialogue” with party officials, the state KCNA news agency said, refer-

ring to the North by its official acronym.

He delivered a report “on the development of the recent situation on the Korean peninsula”, including the separate summit with South Korea to be held later this month, it said. In a growing rapprochement on the Korean peninsula, Kim is scheduled to meet the South’s president Moon Jae-in for a rare inter-Korean summit on 27 April.

Trump has also agreed to meet Kim to discuss denuclearisation as soon as next month. The summit would be the first between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader.—AFP ■

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Distribution of following (1) pesticides registered by CP Manufacturing SDN BHD is transferring from Myanma Awba Group Co.,Ltd to Crescent General Trading Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	Ecomax	Glyphosate IPA 41% W/W SL	Full	F2013-636

Crescent General Trading Co., Ltd
Contact No- 09966800024

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M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (085N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (085N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-4-2018 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.

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AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

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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 MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/ M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Geoffrey Rush ‘virtually housebound’ in defamation case

SYDNEY — Oscar-winner Geoffrey Rush is “virtually housebound” and “barely eats” after a Sydney newspaper claimed he engaged in inappropriate behaviour at a theatre, his lawyer said on Monday during a defamation case. The 66-year-old actor is suing Sydney’s Daily Telegraph after a front-page story in November reported that the Sydney Theatre Company received a complaint about him when he was working there.

The veteran Australian star has denied any wrongdoing and his lawyer Nicholas Pullen said in an affidavit Monday that Rush has “continued to suffer tremendous emotional and social hardship”. The legal document said he was “virtually housebound” and in the first three months after the publication “rarely left his home”.

It added that he “feels uncomfortable when in public and

will rarely attend public events”, “barely eats” and “wakes up every morning with a terrible sense of dread about his future career”. The affidavit said that as a direct result of the report, which received international coverage, Rush found he was “constantly associated” locally and overseas with the global #MeToo movement against sexual harassment.

Rush in December resigned as head of film industry body the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts, which he had led for several years.

He won the Best Actor Academy Award in 1997 for his role in “Shine” and is one of the few stars to have also won a primetime Emmy and a Tony Award.

The Telegraph has said previously it had accurately reported the alleged complaint against Rush and would defend the case in court.—AFP ■



Oscar-winner Geoffrey Rush is “virtually housebound” and “barely eats” after a Sydney newspaper claimed he engaged in inappropriate behaviour at a theatre, his lawyer said Monday during a defamation case. **PHOTO: AFP**



Salman Khan waves to fans after being released on bail. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bollywood’s Salman Khan thanks fans after jail release

MUMBAI — Convicted Bollywood star Salman Khan tweeted “tears of gratitude” to all his fans on Monday in his first remarks since being bailed over a five-year jail sentence for killing rare antelopes. Khan, one of the world’s highest-paid actors, was convicted in the 20-year-old case on Thursday and spent two nights in Jodhpur Central Jail before being released on bail by a judge on Saturday. “Tears of gratitude. To all my loved ones who are with me and never lost hope. “Thank you for being there with all the love and support. God Bless,” the actor wrote to his 32.7 million Twitter followers.

Khan had denied shooting dead two rare antelopes known as black bucks on a hunting trip while filming a movie in October 1998. But the court found him guilty while acquitting four other actors. Khan has accused Rajasthan’s forest department of trying to frame him. His lawyers

claim the black bucks died of natural causes such as overeating, insisting there was no evidence they were shot.

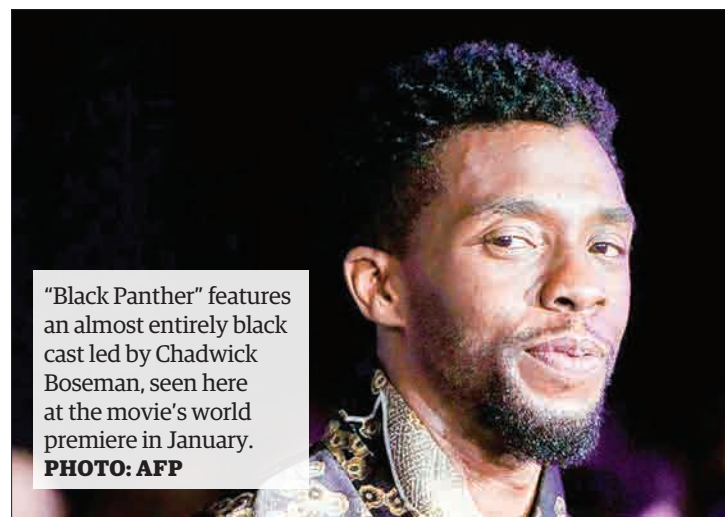
Throughout the multiple cases, eyewitnesses have stated they saw Khan firing a gun.

A judge released Khan, one of Indian cinema’s most bankable stars, in return for bail and sureties totalling 100,000 rupees (\$1,500). He cannot leave India without court permission. The 52-year-old enjoys a cult-like status in star-obsessed India and is one of Bollywood’s biggest draws, despite a host of controversies. Khan was in a vehicle in Mumbai, the home of Bollywood cinema, in 2002 when it mounted the curb and killed a homeless man sleeping on the pavement. He was found guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced to five years in prison, but the verdict was overturned in a higher court in 2015. His acquittal is being challenged in the Supreme Court.—AFP ■

‘Black Panther’ pounces past ‘Titanic’ box office record

LOS ANGELES — “Black Panther” broke more records over the weekend in North America, exceeding revenues from the 1997 blockbuster “Titanic,” while horror thriller “A Quiet Place,” with barely three minutes of dialogue, made a resounding \$50.2 million debut. “A Quiet Place” is built around a simple but chilling premise: flesh-eating creatures have invaded Earth, but they are blind and can track their prey only by sound. So actor/director John Krasinski, his wife (in the film and in real life) Emily Blunt and their children must adapt — through sign language and ingenious adaptations — or die.

The film has drawn rave reviews, with a 97 per cent Rotten Tomatoes rating. Steven Spielberg’s “Ready Player One” — a futuristic tribute to 1980s films — came in second at \$24.6 million from Friday to Sunday, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations. The Warner Bros. film tells the story of a teenage gamer (Wade Watts) who finds himself inside an addictive virtual reality world. It’s earned \$96.5 million in two weeks. In third was another new release, Universal’s “Blockers,” at \$20.6 million. A raunchy comedy starring John Cena and Leslie Mann, the movie drew considerable buzz at the



“Black Panther” features an almost entirely black cast led by Chadwick Boseman, seen here at the movie’s world premiere in January. **PHOTO: AFP**

South by Southwest film festival.

Still flourishing in its eighth week out, “Black Panther” netted \$8.7 million for fourth spot.

Already the highest-grossing superhero film in US history, its cumulative total in the US and Canada now exceeds \$665.6 million. The film stars Chadwick Boseman, Michael B Jordan and Lupita Nyong’o.

That number takes the film past “Titanic,” which had collected \$659 million in North America. “Black Panther” is now third in movie ticket sales of all time on the continent.

“Avatar” (2009) and “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” (2015) are still ahead, with \$760 million and \$936.7 million in ticket sales respectively.

In terms of global sales, “Avatar” leads with \$2.8 billion, followed by “Titanic” (\$2.2 billion), both directed by James Cameron. “Black Panther” is only 10th worldwide.

In North America, the weekend’s fifth spot went to psychological thriller “Tyler Perry’s Acrimony” with \$8.4 million.

Rounding out the top 10 were:

“I Can Only Imagine” (\$7.8 million)

“Chappaquiddick” (\$5.8 million)

“Sherlock Gnomes” (\$5.4 million)

“Pacific Rim: Uprising” (\$4.8 million)

“Isle of Dogs” (\$4.6 million).—AFP ■

Tokyo Disneyland's new parade unveiled ahead of premiere

CHIBA, (Japan) — Tokyo Disneyland's new parade celebrating the theme park's 35th anniversary was unveiled to the press on Tuesday with Mickey Mouse and his Disney friends dancing on gigantic floats.

The parade "Dreaming Up!" will premiere on Sunday. It is the first renewal of Tokyo Disneyland's daytime parade in five years.

It is part of Tokyo Disneyland's special anniversary event "Tokyo Disney Resort 35th 'Happiest Celebration!'," which will run through 25 March next year.

The park's popular attraction "It's a Small World" will also reopen on Sunday.

The "Dreaming up!" parade has a total of 13 floats and is led by Mickey Mouse and Pluto on a vehicle featuring a winged horse, while Minnie Mouse glides along with Cinderella and Snow White.

Baymax, a key character from popular Disney movie "Big Hero 6," made his first appearance at the amusement park, joining the parade with his best friend Hiro on his back. —Kyodo News ■



Tokyo Disneyland performers show the press a new parade attraction titled "Dreaming Up!" on 10 April, 2018, at the theme park in Urayasu, east of Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

India charity's joy at Harry, Markle wedding gesture

MUMBAI — An Indian charity championing menstrual hygiene is over the moon at being chosen as one of seven organisations to benefit from Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding, its head said on Tuesday.

The Myna Mahila Foundation helps disadvantaged women from Mumbai slums access cheap sanitary pads and campaigns to end taboos surrounding menstruation in the conservative Asian country.

The British prince and the US actress this week asked people who want to mark their nuptials next month to donate to charity rather than sending wedding gifts.

"When we found out we were really excited. We're a small grassroots organisation and it felt really special," Suhani Jalota, Myna Mahila's founder and director, told AFP.

The organisation, which Markle visited last year, was founded in 2015 and helps around 10,000 women every month. It provides information about menstrual hygiene and encourages women to talk about their periods to help break social stigma.

Myna is a bird native to South Asia known for its talkative nature while "mahila" means woman in Hindi.

The charity also produces low-cost sanitary pads which are manufactured and distributed by the women, providing employment. Women in patriarchal India, particularly in rural areas, are frequently shunned during their monthly cycles while millions in poverty are forced to use items like old rags, sand and leaves, activists say.

Jalota, who described Markle as "very down-to-earth" when she met her, hopes the publicity and any wedding donations they receive can help the charity soon reach out to 30,000 Mumbai women.

Harry, 33 and Markle, 36, are set to tie the knot at Windsor Castle, west of London, on May 19 in front of 600 guests.

Harry is fifth in line to the throne after his father Charles, brother Prince William and William's children Prince George and Princess Charlotte.

He will be bumped down to sixth place when William's wife Kate gives birth later this month. —AFP ■

112-yr-old Japanese recognized as world's oldest man

KUSHIRO, (Japan) — Masazo Nonaka, a 112-year-old Japanese man in Hokkaido was recognized as the world's oldest living male, Guinness World Records said on Tuesday.

Nonaka was born in the northern Japan town of Ashoro on 25 July, 1905, the year Albert Einstein published his theory of relativity.

Guinness had been trying to confirm the oldest living man after the previous title holder Yisrael Kristal of Israel died last August at 113.

Nonaka lives with his family in his home, which doubles as the more than 100-year-old hot spring inn he used to run. His wife, with whom Nonaka had two sons and three daughters, died in 1992.

As he was handed a certificate by a Guinness official

at his home, a smiling Nonaka made a victory sign with his fingers and said, "Thank you."

Nonaka uses a wheelchair but does not need special care in everyday life. He reads newspapers every morning and watches sumo matches and operas on TV.

According to his granddaughter Yuko, Nonaka enjoys soaking in a hot spring once a week and indulges in sweets, especially cakes.

"Mr Nonaka's achievement is remarkable — he can teach us all an important lesson about the value of life and how to stretch the limits of human longevity," Craig Glenday, Guinness World Records' editor-in-chief said.

His great-grandson Koki Kurohata, 20, said, "He has not

been (receiving nursing care) at a facility and has clear brain. He's really amazing."

Japan is one of the world's top countries for longevity. Nabi Tajima, a 117-year-old Japanese resident of Kagoshima Prefecture, is likely to be recognized as the world's oldest living woman, following the death of Violet Brown of Jamaica, the previous title holder who died at 117 in September.

Jiroemon Kimura, a Japanese who died in 2013 at 116, was recognized by Guinness as the longest-lived man in history.

The oldest person ever to have lived is Jeanne Calment, a French woman, who died in 1997 at age 122 years and 164 days, according to Guinness. —Kyodo News ■



Masazo Nonaka, 112, poses in Ashoro on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido on 10 April, 2018, with a certificate from Guinness World Records recognizing him as the world's oldest man. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Yangon United take on Bali United today

Myanmar's Yangon United will play Indonesia's Bali United at Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon today (3.30 p.m.) in a Group G match of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Cup 2018.

A pre-press conference was held in the hall of Thuwanna Stadium yesterday, in which Widodo Cahyono Putro, head coach of Bali United, said the match was important for both teams. "Yangon United are strong and formidable opponents. We are well-prepared to play Yangon United in the away match. We hope to get three points in this match. We will try our best to grab good results for our fans," he said.

Captain Fadil Sausu said his team would try its best to win the match to advance to the next level. "We believe we can win the match," he said.

Yangon United head coach

U Myo Min Tun said, "We won with a score of 3-1 in the first match. We know Bali United will field their strongest players in this match. Bali is the best team in this group. We will advance to the next level even if we manage a draw and get one point. However, we will not be playing for a draw. We will play to win, although some six players are injured."

A Yangon United FC defender said, "We reached this far to advance to the next level. I won't let the team miss this chance. All our players believe we can win this match. We will earn three points for our fans."

There are four teams in Group G: Yangon United, Bali United, FLC Thanh Hoa and Global Cebu. Yangon United is leading the table with nine points, followed by Bali United with five points. — GNLM ■

Out of Neuer's shadow, Ulreich eager to shine in Europe

BERLIN — With Manuel Neuer still sidelined, Sven Ulreich is relishing his time in the spotlight as Bayern Munich's goalkeeper as he prepares for Wednesday's Champions League quarter-final return leg.

Ulreich found himself suddenly elevated to the club's first-choice role in September when World Cup winner Neuer fractured his foot in training.

The 29-year-old will once more be between the posts against Sevilla at Munich's sold-out Allianz Arena with the Germans on the verge of another Champions League semi-final.

Bayern hold a 2-1 advantage and are bidding to reach the last four for the seventh time in nine seasons.

While the likes of Thomas Mueller and Robert Le-



Bayern's first-choice goalkeeper, World Cup winner Manuel Neuer, has been out of action since September. **PHOTO: AFP**

wandowski are used to playing regularly in the knockout stages of European competition, it is a novelty for Ulreich.

"Seville was a super ex-

perience, it was a good match. I was really happy to be able to play a quarter-final of the Champions League," he said.

—AFP ■

Ronaldo looking better than ever ahead of Juventus return

MADRID — Cristiano Ronaldo has already broken one record in this year's Champions League but against Juventus in their quarter-final return on Wednesday he can edge closer to beating a bigger milestone of his own.

Ronaldo's bicycle kick in Real Madrid's 3-0 first leg victory last week ensured he passed Ruud van Nistelrooy's feat by scoring in 10 consecutive Champions League games.

But the Portuguese also now stands just three goals short of his best ever tally in a single European campaign, an achievement that would suggest this Ronaldo, aged 33, may even be the finest version yet.

His 14 goals so far have come over nine matches and featured doubles against APOEL, Borussia Dortmund, Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus.

It means this is Ronaldo's third most prolific Champions League showing to date already and, with Real almost certain to reach the semi-finals, he is unlikely to finish here.

When he posted 16 goals in the 2015-16 tournament and his personal best of 17 in 2013-14, both times Real were crowned champions. "Cristiano is Cristiano, it's always been like that," coach Zin-



Real Madrid's forward Cristiano Ronaldo stands just three goals short of his best ever tally in a single European campaign. **PHOTO: AFP**

edine Zidane said after Ronaldo opened the scoring against Atletico Madrid on Sunday.

"There's no other player in the team that scores like he does." There is no doubt Ronaldo's game is now more streamlined and therefore more geared towards goals than perhaps it has ever been before. To preserve his fitness and energy, he accepts less touches and covers less ground. The touches he takes

and the spaces he finds are aimed at creating the greatest chance of hitting the net. Even Zidane's system is suited to accommodating this predatory Ronaldo, a 4-4-2, with Karim Benzema playing the supporting role and wingers, instructed to supply deliveries into the box.

When Ronaldo volleyed in from eight yards against Atletico, it was a simple cross to the back post from Gareth Bale that pro-

vided it. In this mould, Ronaldo could be terrorising goalkeepers for a fair few years yet.

Zidane withdrew his star player in the 64th minute last weekend, despite the match being delicately poised at 1-1 after Antoine Griezmann's equaliser.

The draw keeps Atletico four points clear of Real, and favourites for second place in La Liga, but Ronaldo going off early in a Madrid derby, without any

protest, is a measure of how the Champions League is now all-encompassing for Los Blancos.

"He is intelligent," Zidane said about Ronaldo's substitution. "There are moments where he does not play and others where he does. He needs it, he knows that and he is better every day."

Luka Modric and Karim Benzema were also left out of the starting line-up at the Santiago Bernabeu while Bale played 90 minutes, an indicator the Welshman is set for another European snub in midweek. Bale's first choice is still to regain favour under Zidane and then stay at Real this summer but his coach is showing little sign of softening. Zidane made three substitutions last week in Turin but Bale remained rooted to the bench. If Real score one, which they have not failed to do in 24 Champions League games, Juve will need four. "We do not cry to each other and we go to Madrid with the desire to have a good race. In football and in life you never know," Juve defender Giorgio Chiellini said after a 4-2 win at Benevento on Saturday. "The game is long and therefore we will need some balance but to do it will also take a pinch of healthy madness from everyone." —AFP ■