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Pull-out supplement

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President U Win Myint attends 32nd ASEAN Summit opening

President U Win Myint(Second from Left) and leaders of ASEAN countries wave to participants of ASEAN countries after posing documentary photo at the opening ceremony the 32nd ASEAN Summit at the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint attended the 32nd ASEAN Summit opening ceremony and Summit Retreat held in Singapore yesterday.

The opening ceremony of the 32nd ASEAN Summit was held at the Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore, at 10 a.m.

Heads of State, Heads of Government and representatives of ASEAN countries attending the opening ceremony were welcomed by rotating ASEAN Chairman Singapore Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong.

The opening ceremony began with students from Singapore singing a song in commemoration of ASEAN, followed by an opening speech by Singapore Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong.

Next, President U Win Myint and Singapore Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong took a commemorative photo, together with Heads of State and Heads of Government of ASEAN countries.

The opening ceremony was attended by Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers,

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Myanmar, Russia discuss strengthening cooperation in national security matters

U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government arrived at Yangon International Airport after attending the IX International Meeting of High Level Officials Responsible for Security Matters which was held in Sochi, Russian Federation, from 24 to 26 April 2018. During his stay in Moscow, he met with H.E. Mr. Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation at his office in Moscow at 12:00 noon on 27 April 2018.

> Myanmar, Russia to strengthen cooperation in the UN and other international fora

During their meeting, the Union Minister and the Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation discussed strengthening cooperation in areas relating to national security matters. The Union Minister briefed the Secretary on the developments in Myanmar, including the situation in Rakhine State.

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Leaders of ASEAN nations attend opening of the 32nd ASEAN Summit as the school children from Singapore sing a song in commemoration of ASEAN. **PHOTO: ASEAN2018 ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

President U Win Myint in a retreat meeting with the ASEAN Heads of State/Governments at the 32nd ASEAN Summit Retreat in Singapore. **PHOTO: ASEAN2018 ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

President U Win Myint attends 32nd ASEAN Summit opening

FROM PAGE-1

and high ranking officials from ASEAN member countries, including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, along with the ASEAN Secretary General, ASEAN Permanent Representatives, invited guests, officials, and local and foreign media.

Afterwards, Heads of State, Heads of Government and representatives of ASEAN countries attended the ASEAN Smart Cities Showcase held at the Shangri-La Hotel.

Following this, President U Win Myint, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Indonesian President Mr. Joko Widodo, Philippines President Mr. Rodrigo Duterte, rotating ASEAN Chairman Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Cambodian Prime Minister Mr. Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Thai Prime Minister Mr. Prayuth Chan-ocha and the Malaysian Prime Minister's special representative, Mr. Musa Hitam, attended the 32nd ASEAN Summit Retreat held at the Shangri-La Hotel.

After the Summit Retreat, the President, together with Heads of State and Heads of Government from ASEAN countries attended a luncheon hosted by the Singaporean Prime Minister.

In addition to attending the Summit opening ceremony and Summit Retreat, the President met separately with Thailand's Prime Minister and the Brunei Sultan in the morning, and the Vietnamese Prime Minister in the afternoon.

During the meeting with the Prime Minister of Thailand Mr. Prayuth Chan-ocha,

discussions focused on increasing bilateral contacts and relations, Myanmar workers in Thailand, conducting joint operations against drug and illegal trade along the border, cooperation for early implementation of the Dawei Deep Sea Port project, opening a second Myanmar-Thailand Friendship bridge, providing humanitarian assistance for Rakhine State, assisting in sustainable socio-economic development and supporting internal peace and national reconciliation efforts in Myanmar.

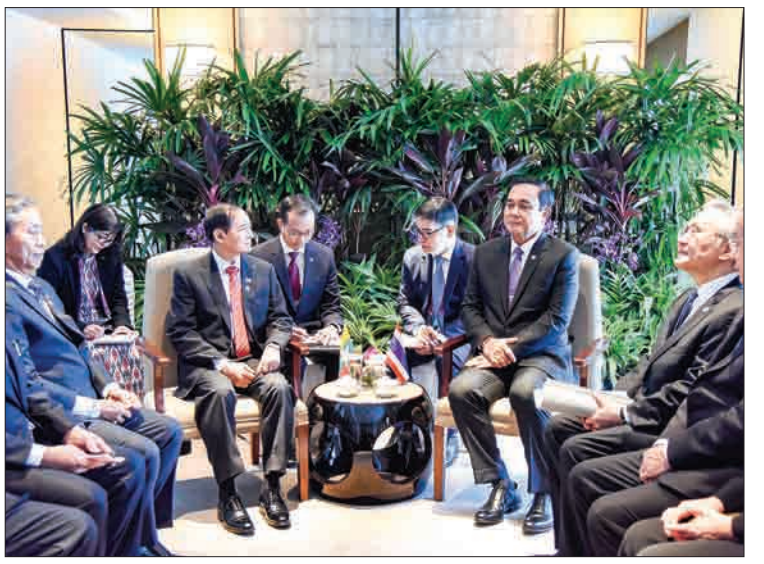
During the meeting with the Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, matters relating to developing and strengthening the existing bilateral friendship and cooperation, exchange visits of representatives from various sectors, Brunei scholarships for Myanmar students, continuing the organizing, conducting and providing study visits, workshops and training courses, and increasing bilateral trade were discussed. The Brunei Sultan also invited Myanmar's President to make an official visit to Brunei at a mutually convenient time.

When meeting with the Prime Minister of Viet Nam Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, matters relating to strengthening the bilateral friendship that was started during the time of Bogyoke Aung San and Viet Nam President Ho Chi Minh were reviewed. Also, the leaders discussed deepening the bilateral relation that has been raised to all round cooperation and the level of friendly relation, increasing bilateral trade to US$ 1 billion, increasing investments, increasing contacts and relationships in education, culture and between the peoples of the two countries were discussed. The President was also invited by Viet Nam Prime Minister to make official visit to Viet Nam at a mutually convenient time.

Later in the afternoon, the President and party left for Myanmar from Singapore Changi International Airport on a special flight. The President and party were seen off by Singapore Senior Minister of State in Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transport Dr. Lam Pin Min, Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Htay Aung and wife, Military Attache Col. Win Myat and wife, Myanmar embassy staff and officials.

The President and party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw at 5:50 p.m. where they were welcomed by First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice Presdients U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Deputy Minister for Office of the President U Min Thu, Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Ms. Vanessa Chen and other officials. Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and other officials also returned with the President. — Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Win Myint meets with Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah in Singapore. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint meets with Prime Minister of Thailand Mr. Prayuth Chan-ocha in Singapore yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint meets with Prime Minister of Viet Nam Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc in Singapore yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

> Our country is still in poverty with necessities in every sector;which is why we need to carry on our struggle and work hard in all sectors. In the international arena, we are facing pressure, criticisms and misunderstandings. The challenges and difficulties our country and our people are facing today are many. Although every issue cannot be solved easily, we will have to make utmost efforts to solve these issues according to each priority sector.
>
> (Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

> That is why in the coming year 1380, our Union Government has decided to keep in high regard the need for "collective strength" to overcome our country's challenges.
>
> (Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

Myanmar, Russia discuss strengthening cooperation in national security matters

FROM PAGE-1

Union Minister U Thaung Tun is welcomed by Russian Security Council Secretary Mr. Nikolai Patrushev in Moscow. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Thaung Tun shakes hands with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Igor Morgulov in Moscow. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Union Minister, later in the evening at 4pm, met with H.E. Mr. Igor Morgulov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in Moscow.

The Ministers noted with satisfaction the development of friendly relations and close ties of cooperation between the two countries over the past seven decades. They reaffirmed their willingness to strengthen cooperation in the United Nations and other international fora, promote people-to-people contacts and strengthen trade relations.

Major Gen. Aung Soe, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs and U Ye Gyaw Mra, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also came back with the Union Minister.—Ministry of the Office of the Union Government ■

MOI takes steps for publishing encyclopedia, Myanmar Classics

By Yi Yi Myint

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint holds talks with the editorial team publishing the new Myanmar Encyclopedia and 100 Myanmar Classics at Sarpay Beikman in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint met with the editorial team publishing the new Myanmar Encyclopedia and 100 Myanmar Classics at Sarpay Beikman on Merchant Street in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Printing and Publishing Department Deputy Director-General and Sarpay Beikman editorial team members explained about the status of the ongoing work, and the Union Minister remarked on the explanations that were presented.

The meeting was attended by departmental heads from the Ministry of Information, officials and the Sarpay Beikman editorial team.

On the matter of publishing the new Myanmar Encyclopedia, Sarpay Beikman Chief Editor U Soe Myint Than said, "The Union Minister had given guidance on resolving some issues, and it is for this that the meeting was held. Efforts are being made toward publishing the first volume in September. It will be different from the previous encyclopedia. The previous one was published in 1954, so much time has passed. As it was more than 60 to 70 years ago, new topics will be included in the new one. Topics and subjects to be included are being discussed with experts, so it will be factual and accurate, and will be up to current encyclopedia standards. The concept of publishing the Myanmar Encyclopedia began in November 2016 and the actual work was started in February 2017. Those who had prepared the earlier encyclopedia are no longer around. We are starting from scratch and we are still setting up the format. Once the difficulties are overcome and the first volume published, subsequent volumes will follow quickly."

The steering committee to republish the Myanmar Encyclopedia includes nine experts. Also, the consultant group has 19 members, and the editorial team has ten members. The Sarpay Beikman editorial team, Tun Commercial Foundation editorial team, three staff members from the Information and Public Relations Department copyright section and three literature assistants are also participating in the process, while 124 subjects and topic specialists are providing support.

Regarding the project, the 100 Myanmar Classics publishing committee's secretary, U Zeya, said, "Three novels for 100 Myanmar Classics volume 1 were selected in this meeting. The are ready to be printed, and 81 novels are being pre-selected for volumes 2 and 3. The novels are epics from past eras to date. Poems, short stories, plays and essays will follow the novel. Novels will be up to 16 or 17 volumes and the plan is to publish two volumes a month. Each volume will have about 500 to 600 pages. Volumes 1 and 2 are ready. Also, novel volumes will be published this year."

Regarding copyrights, a fee of 15 percent will be allocated to the author or family member of the author, and 5 percent to the editorial team and selection team. ■

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17th International Furniture Expo held in Yangon

THE 17th International Furniture Expo is being held at the Tatmadaw Hall in Yangon from 26 to 30 April, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

At the exhibition, officials from the Yangon Region government, the Myanma Timber Enterprise director and the chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry cut the ceremonial ribbon to declare the expo open.

"This international furniture expo is celebrated annually. Casabella furniture also participates in the event annually. The furniture displayed at the expo is manufactured according to international standards. The designs of the furniture are the latest. People are interested in new designs. Most of our furniture not only has the latest designs, but is also ergonomical. We are holding the exhibition to help boost the capacity of furniture entrepreneurs to meet international standards with their products. The products will be sold at affordable prices to customers. We invite people to come and join our expo," said Daw Khin Marlar, managing director of Nat Ray Company. More than 190 booths from more than 40 companies will be showcased at the Myanmar International Furniture Expo. At the exhibition, furniture made of cane, bamboo, wood and water hyacinth, handicrafts, as well as well-known imported furniture will be displayed.—GNLM ■

2nd Public Talk titled "Youth and Hluttaw" held in Nyaunglaypin Town

THE 2nd public talk titled "Youth and Hluttaw" was held at the Thiri Yadanar Hall and was conducted by the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) in Nyaunglaypin Town yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, the deputy speaker of the Bago Region Hluttaw U Kyi Zin and township administrator U Thein Zaw gave opening speeches and divisional officer of the IPRD U Soe Paing clarified the intentions of holding the public talk.

At the ceremony, the deputy speaker of Bago Regional Hluttaw discussed the purpose of three main pillars and members from Hluttaw talked about the intentions of Pyidaungsu Hluttw, Pyithu Hlttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and the Regional Hluttaw. In addition, judiciary and executive officials discussed the objectives of these two branches of the government.

At the ceremony, officials from each Hluttaw, departmental officials, administrators, the women's affairs association of Nyaunglaypin Township, the maternal and child care association, social organizations, youths, teachers, students and locals attended the event, a total of 200 people were present.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Navigation marks along Chindwin River to be installed

NAVIGATION marks are being installed monthly at designated spots along the Chindwin River according to the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems in Sagaing Region.

"The navigation marks were built in November when the water level declined. When the marks were rebuilt, waterways were examined for free from farms on islands when the water level was very low. However, some farmers destroyed the navigation marks and some fishermen also took the marks out of the water. So, those who break the navigation marks will have legal action taken against them, violators may face a three year prison term if convicted. Therefore, fishermen and farmers need to cooperate for maintaining the navigation marks" said assistant director U Tin Aung Soe from the Regional Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

As a safeguard for water transportation, 1170 navigation marks in the river and 1040 navigation marks at ports have been rebuilt from November to February of the 2017-2018 fiscal year.—Myanmar Digital News ■

55th Myanmar Gems Emporium planned in May

UNDER the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium will be held from 20 to 29 June 2018 at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Gem dealers must submit the jade lots they intend to trade to the jade enterprise committee. The lots will be inspected between 15 May and 4 June, after which the committee will fix the floor prices and move all the lots to the showroom.

All licenced and authorised buyers are entitled to participate in the 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium, according to the rules and regulations.

File photo shows foreign and local traders evaluate jade stone at the 54th Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Both local and foreign traders, who are licensed according to the gems law, are also entitled to purchase these gems and jewellery at the emporium.

Local traders attending the emporium have to pay the deposit rate for the gems and the entrance fee. The organising committee will help local traders attend the emporium, in cooperation with Mandalay and Mogok Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association, from 26 May to 1 June.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)■

Married couple arrested for drug trafficking in Shan State

POLICE on Friday arrested a married couple in connection with drug trafficking in Kunhing, a town in Shan State, and confiscated more than Ks3.4 million worth of drugs and related substances, police reported today.

The married couple was identified as U Mar Zein, 27, and Daw Mar Si, 39. Both were living within an area of mining enterprises between mile posts No. 239 and 240 on Taungyi-Kengtung Union Highway near Kyaikli Village in Hopan Village-tract, Kunhing Township.

After receiving a tip, members of the anti-drug squad conducted a raid at the home of the couple, where they found a cache of 2,200 yaba tablets worth Ks2 million, plus black and white opium powder weighing approximately 468 tons, valued at Ks1.4 million, totalling Ks3.4 million.

The police have filed charges against the two suspects under the existing Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigations are being made by township police to arrest others involved in the case.—Ni Toe ■

Exports of agro products by private sector valued at $156 million this FY

THE export of agro products by the private sector in the first 20 days of the current six-month transitional fiscal year amounted to US$156 million, which was a decrease in value by $18 million compared to last year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

During the same period last year, the sector sent $174 million worth of similar products to foreign countries. According to official figures, the country also exported $12 million worth of animal products, $37 million of marine products, over $36 million of minerals, $12 million of forest products, more than $267 billion of manufactured goods and miscellaneous exports valued at over $64 billion. This year, there was no agreement to export agro products by the government with international trade partners.

The government is seeking new export markets for locally produced products. Growers say that the largest barrier to penetrate the international market is the cost of production. For this reason, producers are searching for cost-effective ways to gain significant profits.—Chit Thu ■

Private sector import of capital goods increase by $38 million this FY

THE value of capital goods imported into Myanmar during the current fiscal year has reached US$276 million, an increase of $32 million, as against the same period last FY, according to the latest statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 and 20 April of this year, the private sector imported capital goods worth $265 million from overseas traders, which saw an increase in value of $38 million, whereas the import of similar products by the government reached $10.323 million, which showed a slight decrease in value of $6 million. The total import between Myanmar and international countries was $913 million, including $888 million by the private sector and $24 million by the public sector.

Over the first 20 days of this FY, the country's import of intermediate goods was valued at $462.302 billion, while the value of consumer goods was $174.884 million. Myanmar mainly trades with ASEAN members, European Union member states, some island nations, Asian and African states, as well as a few western countries, with goods mainly being transported by sea.—Swe Nyein ■

Bilateral trade with ROK tops $712 million last FY

THE value of Myanmar's bilateral trade with the Republic of South Korea reached US$712 million before the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY), according to the Ministry of Commerce's latest monthly statistical report.

Over the first 11 months of the 2017-18 FY, Myanmar's exports to the East Asian country exceeded $268.289 million, while its imports were valued at $443.958 million. Bilateral trade, in February alone, was more than $77 million, including some $33 million in exports and more than $44 million in imports.

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

The trade between the two countries in the 2016-2017 FY was valued at some $866 million.

The bilateral trade value was $666 million in the 2011-2012 FY and $623 million in the 2012-2013 FY. The external trade with South Korea reached a record high of nearly $1.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY. Trade between the two countries declined to $862 million in the 2014-2015 FY and $656 million in the 2015-2016 FY.

South Korea's investments in Myanmar in the 2017-2018 FY reached $253.904 million, according to a report of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. Its investment in Myanmar in the 2016-2017 FY was worth $66.423 million.—Khine Khant ■

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By Ma Hanni

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with local people at peace talks in Myay Tine Kan Village, Wundwin, Meikhtila District in Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mandalay Region Government promotes healthcare and education during second year

IN their second one-year performance review, the Mandalay Region Government states they have promoted public healthcare, education and socio-economic development.

Concerning public healthcare the regional government has upgraded rural health departments to township hospitals and also expanded existing hospitals.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung said they expanded the patient wards and staff residencies when upgrading to township hospitals. "We upgraded five rural health departments into township hospitals this year and we stocked them with appropriate medicine," he said.

The Mandalay Government spent Ks 177.68 million for healthcare in 2016-2017 fiscal year and Ks 230 million in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. "We purchased 113 types of medical products in 2016-2017 and Ks 230 million worth of medicine in 2017-2018," said the regional chief minister. He added that there are three vaccination programs. "In 2016-2017 we administered 93 per cent of ringworm vaccination and we managed the same number the next year. In 2017-2018 we administered 90 per cent of vaccinations for Japanese Encephalitis. Our region still has cased of elephantiasis but we've managed to perform 96.28 per cent of vaccinations in our two year term."

Concerning public education, the regional government built new schools, expanded existing ones and established new examination centers.

"In our two years we've spent Ks 15.698 billion of the union budget to construct 573 new schools," said the regional chief minister. "Donors contributed Ks 3.54 billion for the construction of 74 new school wards. We have upgraded 70 existing schools and have established 21 new examination centers throughout 28 townships in the region." The regional government also provided extracurricular education for working children in seven townships. In the first year, sixty volunteer teachers provided education for over 600 children and in the second year they reached out to 400 children. "We allotted funds for ensuring children reach 6th or 7th grade. There were request to teach ethnic literature and languages, noticeably Shan and Lisu," said the chief minister.

Mandalay Region reportedly received US$ 1.882 billion in foreign investments and Ks 2829.67 billion in domestic investments. "We receive foreign investments from twelve countries," said the chief minister. "As for domestic investments it comes from thirty local corporations. It's very encouraging to see these numbers. We have formed the Mandalay Region Investment Committee that provides one stop service. Investors attend meetings and can gain approvals and licenses on the spot."

With regards to further attracting investors to the region, the chief minister replied that there is huge potential for investment in Mandalay. "That's why we're working for increased electrical energy production. If we can provide more stable electricity and use of land then investors will come in fast. This is good for both the region and the country as a whole and it will create jobs for local residents as well," said the chief minister.

> Concerning public education, the regional government built new schools, expanded existing ones and established new examination centers.

The regional government is also constructing rural and urban residences under a five-year project, and a residence for civil servants called the Aung Myay Mandalar Residence.

Dr. Zaw Myint Maung said there are 2,000 housing projects for Mandalay Region. He added that over 65,000 civil servants in the region and only 3.28 per cent of them have residency. This means only three in a hundred civil servants have residence. In the two year period the regional government has built 936 apartment rooms and in the Aung Myay Mandalar Residence will have housing with 240 rooms each.

Sidewalks and railing fences of the moat in Mandalay before renovation. **PHOTO: MDN**

A patient receives heart valve transplant operation at the Mandalay General Hospital. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG**

The civil servants are only required to pay 30 per cent mortgage upfront.

The regional government has also equipped 2,117 out of 4,807 villages in the region with electric power. The chief minister said Ks 18 billion was spent building six 66KV sub-power stations and thirteen 33KV sub-power stations among other processes to provide electricity to the aforementioned villages.

Both rural and urban Mandalay has received considerable improvements to infrastructure and power supply. "Visitors from other cities are fond of Mandalay," commented the chief minister. The regional government has constructed a total of 7.4 miles of concrete roads, 196 miles of tar roads, 109 concrete bridges, and 225 bridges over bodies of water all over Mandalay Region using Ks 13.89 billion.

"Some of the banks along the Irrawaddy river have collapsed and we had to relocate a village from Myingyan and Nyaung-U each," said the chief minister. "We've spent Ks 2.5 billion constructing 33 irrigation canals to control flooding for 31,525 acres of fields," he added.

The chief minister said he wants the people to understand that the government is elected by the people and therefore has a duty to fulfill the needs and requirements of the people. But he also added that active participation from every citizen is needed as the government cannot accomplish things by itself.

Dr. Tayzar San, Director of Association for Spreading True Knowledge, spoke of the Mandalay Government's performance, "It is important to know how to use the people's strength to carry out the people's will. The people need to be involved in such things as anti-corruption movements."

The Mandalay Region Government has expressed interest in dealing with confiscated lands and anti-drug movements. The regional government has returned 3,000 acres of confiscated lands to their original owners in the two year period. The chief minister said the scene of farmers protesting for their confiscated lands is disheartening. "We do everything we can for them," he said. "There are about 140,000 plots of confiscated land that we are scrutinizing for returning. We want to return it the rightful owner."

"We recently came into possession of 4,000 acres of land confiscated for building an airport and 290 acres in Pyin Oo Lwin. We want to give back as much as possible within five years but we have other concerns too," he added.

The chief minister said that Mandalay Region receives harsh criticism for drug abuse. "Our region is a hub point so there are many people coming in and out all the time," said the chief minister. "We have apprehended a lot of drug dealers and users. But the rate of smuggling is higher than the rate of apprehending them so it only seems drug abuse is rampant but we manage to seize them at gates and through informed contacts," added the chief minister. Every June the confiscated drugs are destroyed but more keep pouring into the region.

Another thing the region is criticized for is vehicle accidents involving motorbikes. The chief minister said cooperation from the public is key here as even after much awareness raising there are still frequent reports of vehicle accidents.

The chief minister said he is not very satisfied with the status of security in the region. "We have a force of 400 officers patrolling around the region constantly. It is not a lawless region but the rate of crime, especially by young people, is persistent. It may be due to influence of drugs or gambling but young people will steal or commit robberies in all forms," said the chief minister.

Dr. Zaw Soe, from the International Relations and Political Science Department, Mandalay University, that active participation from the public is paramount in a democratic state. He said that many citizens do not follow traffic rules even though there are traffic lights and officers in place.

The chief minister said there are still bountiful opportunities for improvement and development in Mandalay Region. "There's the New Yatanarpon City Project and another project in Pyin Oo Lwin. We are building and improving ports with help from Singapore. We have a lot of merchandise and commodities to transport along the Ayeyawady River but not very developed ports yet."

The chief minister said the Mandalay government will do its best to continue providing for the people for the remaining three years of office.

(Translated by Chris)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects Yadana vineyards which have been cultivated on a large scale in Sehteik Village, Yamethin Township, in Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

> Both rural and urban Mandalay has received considerable improvements to infrastructure and power supply.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung delivers the address at the Myanmar Entrepreneurs Carnival MEC-2018. **PHOTO: MDN**

Tourists visit Taung Taman Lake and U Pain Bridge in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deforestation and soil degradation is blamed for changing the flow of the Ayeyawady River and for errosion of the river's bank. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG**

29 APRIL 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Work together to make it easier to do business

REFORMING the private sector plays an important role not only in the country's economy, but also in promoting the socio-economic welfare of the people. More than 90 per cent of the country's economy relies on the private sector.

Reforms related to private sector growth play an important role in creating an environment in which everyone can make investments in Myanmar.

Another area that needs to be addressed is with respect to basic services delivery, where infrastructural building, a bigger electrical grid and constructing roads are needed. There is no question about this. There are a lot of policy reforms that need to happen to improve health, education and electricity supply.

> The other two decisions of increasing the Ease of Doing Business Ranking and Single Registration System of businesses in a single Ministry instead of registering in many ministries were still being implemented.

We must join together with the private sector, an important partner and the most reliable engine for growth, if the country is to make meaningful progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Since its formation on 24 October 2016, the Private Sector Development Committee led by Vice President U Myint Swe has significantly developed the private sector.

Since the committee was formed, five duties were assigned to it and five work committees were formed to implement these duties. So far, 42 out of 45 decisions were implemented and three were still being implemented.

One of the important decisions is to establish a Credit Bureau that collects information on loans.

The other two decisions of increasing the Ease of Doing Business Ranking and Single Registration System of businesses in a single Ministry instead of registering in many ministries were still being implemented. These two are representative of the types of work that need time to be implemented.

Meanwhile, to raise the ranking in the World Bank Report on Doing Business, a 14-member committee led by the Deputy Minister for Commerce was formed in January.

In the 2018 World Bank report on Doing Business, Myanmar was ranked 171.

To improve this ranking, Ministries concerned need to cooperate with each other in implementing a One Stop Service for registration of businesses and make it easier to do business in the country.

The Ministries concerned and the private sector should join hands to cooperate in its efforts to ease rules, promote small and medium enterprises, develop the trade sector, provide vocational training and build infrastructure. ■

Full Moon Day of Kasone (May)
Lord Buddha's First Victory

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

File photo shows Buddhist devotees water the Bo Tree at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon to mark Buddha Day which falls on the Full Moon Day of Kasone. **PHOTO: THWE THWE TUN**

THERE are eight victories which Lord Gotama Buddha achieved over his eight opponents not by means of force but by means of peace in the form of metta (loving kindness). These eight victories of Lord Gotama Buddha are well known as "Aung Chin Shitpar" literally အောင်ခြင်းရှစ်ပါး.

The first victory of Lord Buddha achieved was the one over his opponent Satan the evil deva who tried to dislodge Lord Buddha from his seat under the shade of a Bodhi Tree (Banyan Tree where Lord Gotama Buddha was being enlightened).

The following is the brief of this event;_

"In the Kawza Sakarit of 103 (Buddhist Era) on the full moon of Kasone, Lord Gotama Buddha was in deep meditation, with a determination not to rise and go away till he achieved Buddhahood.

At that moment Satan the evil deva from Vasavadi kingdom, riding young Mingala Elephant came down, challenging Lord Gotama Buddha to move from his seat for him. First Satan the evil deva used his beautiful daughters to entice Lord Buddha. On failure, he turned to force by attempting to attack with all his warriors.

Lord Buddha remained unshaken. He said that to become a Buddha he had aeons of years of practicing perfections ten virtues (parami). In the different forms of lives, good he had been through he had done only good deeds and never bad deeds. To prove that what he said was true, he called upon Earth, saying Earth has restored in its womb all good deeds of all my lives in this whirl pool of Samsara (Endless cycle of births and rebirths).

Lord Buddha raised his right hand and with his fore finger pointed to the Earth, calling upon the Earth to stand witness to what he said.

Whereupon, the entire Earth quaked. Heavy showers came down, causing billows of waves. Wathonedarey, the god of Earth appeared from the earth saying what Lord Gotama Buddha said was true. Every time he did good deed, libation ceremony was made. I had collected water of libation ceremony in my hair. Look at it". So saying the Earth god squeezed his hair and out came constant libation water from his hair carrying army of Satan's warriors.

Then, Lord Buddha says "Satan the evil deva, I give metta (loving kindness) and one day you will come to listen to my Dhamma and you also will escape from Samsara to reach Nivana, the end of all cravings and sufferings – eternal peace.

Of many mudras (hand gestures) of Buddha images or pictures, Bhumisatha mudra (earth touching or pointing gesture) is most revered and sacred. You will find the statue of Earth god wathonedarey squeezing his long hair producing water. After libation ceremony performed at the end of any religious deed, Myanmar Buddhists pour libation water on the head of Wathondarey Statue and calling upon it to stand witness to their good deeds. They then strike nearby gongs or bells to send out the shares of religious deeds to all humans and spirits of being in all directions.

Because Lord Gotama Buddha became enlightened under the shade of Banyan Tree ညောင်ပင် it became the Bodhi Tree. Buddhas of the past and Buddhas of the future had and would have their own Bodhi Tree. The 28 Buddhas became enlightened under different kinds of trees including bamboo. You can see them at the shrines of 28 Buddhas (နှစ်ကိုပ်ရှစ်ဆူဘုရား).

Seeds of saplings of Bodhi Tree (Banyan Tree) were brought either from Boolgaya in India or from Sri Lanka by monks, Myanmar kings' delegations, or private pilgrims throughout Myanmar history till today. Therefore sacred Bodhi Trees are found not only in the precincts or platforms of famous pagodas but also in most areas across Myanmar.

In Kasone on full moon day, Myanmar traditional monthly festival is held without fail. In Yangon, a big water-pouring ceremories are held at Shwedagon Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Botahtaung pagoda, Ngahtatkyi, Chaukhtatkyi and Ko-htat Kyi pagoda etc. Kasone is very warm and dry. Water diminishes in the earth. So we need to pour water at Bodhi Tree. In Mandalay, a grand Kasone water-pouring takes place at Bodhigone, Kuthodaw, Kyauk Taw Kyi, Sandamuni, Maha Muni, Shwe Kyet Yet Pagodas on a grand scale usually rain clouds gather on such occasions and sometime thunderous heavy down pour take place.

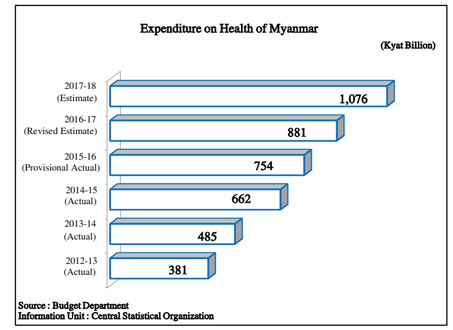
It is so pleasant and religiously inspired to watch the train of pretty Myanmar ladies bearing pots of water on their heads, each more than one pots (in rural areas, there used to be some girls who can bear up to 10 pots) coming to the Bodhi Tree to pour. At the end of the line are groups of armature male performers, playing percussion and wind instruments, singing songs and dancing joyously. They joined in pouring water. Cold drinks and Myanmar traditional snacks are served.

Kasone water pouring ceremony is also a good occasion for young boys and girls to meet.

Kasone full moon day ceremonies and events are depicted in Myanmar visual arts and re-enacted in Myanmar performing arts.

The famous song named Aung Chin Shitpar sung by nationally famed film actress and singer May Shin. မေရှင် revealed by A1. Film is still popular with the current generation.

The entire song described how Lord Gotama Buddha won his eight opponents by means of metta (loving kindness) sending out the messages of his Dhamma to the world to avoid conflict and to restore permanent peace by metta (loving kindness). ■



Asia-Pacific countries identify financial technology needs to meet global goals

NEW YORK — Asia-Pacific countries met on the sidelines of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Forum on Financing for Development in New York this week to explore opportunities for scaling up the Financial Technology Industry (Fintech), such as mobile money and micro-lending companies, to meet the ambitious targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The high-level participants recognised the need to increase access to financial services for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the region's poorest people, if the aim of mobilizing 2.5 trillion annually in Asia and the Pacific is to be attained. They noted, however, that regulators would need to strike the right balance between facilitating innovation, maintaining financial stability and ensuring consumer protection.

Organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh, Indonesia and Kazakhstan, the side event provided a platform for countries to review their experience in pursuing FinTech initiatives, and identify policy and regulatory challenges in harnessing, their potential in the region.

In her opening remarks, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Dr. Shamshad Akhtar underscored that access to financial services is an integral component of the global financing for the development agenda.

"Frontier technologies are offering new solutions for providing an impetus to financial inclusion," she said.

"FinTech solutions include cell phone apps that allow users to execute online transactions, such as bill payments, store credit scoring of consumers and small businesses owners based on big data analytics, along with online alternative financing platforms such as peer-to-peer lending and equity crowdfunding."

Dr. Akhtar emphasized that, "Asia-Pacific is leading globally the Fintech emergence and they are transforming the way people pay, send money, borrow, lend, and invest."

Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Minister of Finance, Bangladesh added, "We need to create a regional platform for sharing experiences and best practices to enhance MSMEs access to finance in the Asia-Pacific region."

Mr. Bambang P.S. Brodjonegoro, Minister of National Development Planning, Indonesia further underscored that governments need to "highlight the importance of proper regulatory framework to take advantage of FinTech to support the attainment of SDGs particularly in tackling inequality."—(*ESCAP NEWS*) ■

Apartments at affordable housing complex in Shwepyitha Ward in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Performance of Rakhine State Government in 2nd Year in Office

By Shin Min

RAKHINE State Government has carried out to achieve all-round development in all socio-economic sectors of the people. In order to make sustainable development, plans are under way to support and encourage the small and medium scale enterprises, the development of health and education sectors, and conservation of natural environment.

The Union Enterprise for humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD)

With the cooperation of the Rakhine State Government, the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) in Rakhine has played a vital role in the process of accepting and resettling persons displaced by terrorist attacks. And effective arrangements have been made to earn their living without any difficulty and build the construction projects including houses and schools as the original structures and designs for the ethnic nationals including Hindus and Muslims.

Currently, Myanmar is ready to receive the verified returnees and cooperation is of great importance to create the conditions under the principle of voluntary, safe and dignified return.

Economic and Social Development

The Rakhine State Government has put a great deal of determined efforts into promoting rule of law and enhancing development in the region.

With the aim of boosting the investment, the Rakhine State Investment Commission was established on 7 July, 2017 and the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration opened its state office on 30 October, 2017.

As a result, they have verified and granted concessions to a total of 48 investment projects, including 6 livestock and fishery projects, 2 construction projects, 11 hotels, 27 energy projects and one service business in accordance with the rules and regulations.

Coporate Social Responsibility

As a form of Corporate Social Responsibility, the contributions made by the investors to the socio-economic development of Kyaukpyu are as follows: 50 villages are supported Ks. 30 million each to use as revolving funds for village development activities and heavy equipment operator training was conducted in cooperation with Caterpillar Company.

Also, the coordination and cooperation with ILO are taking place to conduct Labour Market Assessment – LMA. While preparing for LMA, trainings have been delivered to local people to enhance their vocational skills.

There have been 22 types of vocational trainings including those for women provided to a total of 2,160 trainees.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu. **PHOTO: MNA**

> In order to make sustainable development, plans are under way to support and encourage the small and medium scale enterprises, the development of health and education sectors, and conservation of natural environment.

Transportation

As transportation is an important component of the region, high priority is given to improving transportation in Rakhine State. Starting from April up to December, 2017, roads and bridges damaged after the attacks in Maungtaw were repaired and earthen roads, gravel roads, concrete roads and concrete bridges were built. Heliports were also constructed. Currently, twenty bridges and two new mountain roads on May Yu Mountain are under construction.

In the land transport sector, six more bus lines have been expanded in addition to the 42 existing bus lines. For water transport, transportation along the Rakhine coastline and rivers is improved with Kispanadi (1) and (2) vessels running along the Sittway-Kyaukphu route and Aung Takhon vessels running along the Sittway-Buthidaung route. As a part of the Kalatan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project supported by the Indian Government, six cargo vessels of 300 ton capacity started running on 26 June, 2017. In the air transport, approval has been obtained to build the new Mrauk U airport through public private partnership (PPP). At Munaung Airport, construction of 200 foot over-run to the south to the existing runway (4,500´x100´) and RESA earth leveling work has been started. Also in Sittway Airport, construction of the expanded terminal building (180´x60´) has been completed.

In the Communications sector, mobile phone penetration is now over 85% and there have been more than 1 million internet users. The efforts had been made in the electricity sector, starting from 1 April, 2017 up to 31 December, 2017, have resulted in the increases of electricity supply in terms of the number of hours a day.

Drinking water supply

For drinking water supply, building and repairing 26 earthen ponds were completed in the villages in Rakine State. Thinechaung Earthen Dam (with capacity 249 million gallons) and Dotantaung (1) Check Dam (with capacity 20.39 million gallons) were constructed. Construction of concrete reservoirs, repair of earthen ponds, installation of pipes connecting reservoirs to water collecting tanks were also carried out. Additionally, 234 rural drinking water supply projects were implemented in 233 villages, sourcing water from hand-dug wells, ponds, springs and other sources. A variety of comprehensive rural development activities were also undertaken in seven villages through Village Development Project, in 235 villages through CDD Project and in 97 villages through Emerald Green Project.

Agriculture Sector

In support of agricultural production, mechanization was promoted by giving out loans of Ks 447.953 million to farmers to buy 233 machines and equipment for farming and fishery, and by selling two tractors and 575 hand-operated tractors in installments. Moreover, 23,332 baskets of seeds of pure paddy variety, 30 baskets of seeds of winter peanuts, four baskets of seeds of green gram, 796 packets of vegetable seeds were distributed to 4,553 households. The training on agricultural techniques was provided to 90 farmers with the support of KOPIA project. The farming equipment operator training was conducted for four times and benefitted 110 trainees.

Besides, 1,261 farmer trainings were delivered in all townships of Rakhine State.

14. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are important drivers of the development of the regional economy. Loans are given out to SMEs with the repayment terms from 3 to 5 years at an interest rate of 9%. Cooperating with JICA, Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank provides two step loans, with 3 to 5 year repayment terms, at an interest rate of 8% to farmers all over the country including the Rakhine State.

Encouraging investments and development of businesses, the company registration process has been streamlined by reducing the procedures up to 4 steps from previous 13 steps, and also reducing the registration fee from Ks.1 million to Ks.500,000.

Additionally, a telephone hot line (1887) has been set up to provide information needed for incorporating a company or making an investment.

Tree Plantation Movement

Efforts had been made to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change, some 11,764 acres of community forests have been established; 1,644 acres of Gwa Chaung mangrove forest is planned to designate as protected area; and 390,000 trees were grown through community tree planting movements in 2017-2018.

Regarding production and distribution of climate resilient seeds, 441 acres of monsoon paddy seed nursery was established, 415,687 acres was planned and grown for crop diversification during 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

Improving irrigation systems is another important effort for agricultural development. As such, 100% of 75 projects were completed, including construction, upgrade and repairs of irrigation systems, embankments, spillways, concrete water gate, check dams, and reservoir dams. In Rakhine State, 26 environmental education programs were organized during the period from June to November, 2017 and 5,174 people attended those programs.

(Translated by William Ko)

> The Rakhine State Government has put a great deal of determined efforts into promoting rule of law and enhancing development in the region.

The opening ceremony of the Sittway Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaw highway, one of the main highways in Rakhine State, linking Maungtaw with its capital Sittway along with its five major bridges. **PHOTO: MNA**

A construction site of dam for storage usable water and agriculture near Kinegyi village in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ship carrying construction materials and rice bags moors at the Kanyinchaung jetty. **PHOTO: MNA**

The loan project helping boost the development of flower plantation in Theintan village, Sittway in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyilonechantha Hsu Taung Pye Maha Datu Pagoda consecration ceremony held

Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to sacred diamond bud at the consecration ceremony of Pyilonechantha Hsu Taung Pye Maha Datu Pagoda in Pyin Oo Lwin. **PHOTO: MNA**

A consecration ceremony and hoisting of an umbrella, vane and diamond bud onto Pyilonechantha Hsu Taung Pye Maha Datu Pagoda in Dattaw Monastery, Anisakhan, Pyin Oo Lwin was held on Friday morning.

The ceremony was attended by monks led by State Ovadacariya (Patron) Mandalay Maha Wizitayone, Monastery Chief Patron Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Visaraneda Bivamsa, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Commander-in-Chief (Air) and his wife, high ranking officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and their wives, Central Command Commander, senior Tatmadaw officers from Pyin Oo Lwin cantonment, donors, invited guests and the local people.

The attending monks, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife, and high ranking Tatmadaw officers carried the sacred relics, umbrella, vane and diamond bud around the pagoda.

Following that ritual, the sacred relics, umbrella, vane and the diamond bud were placed onto respective places and the consecration of the pagoda was conducted. After the ceremony, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, his wife and other ceremony attendees offered "soon" (meal) to the sanghas and nuns.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Ministry of Border Affairs provides aid to displaced families in Kachin State

A CEREMONY to provide aid to some 1,000 members of displaced families in Injangyang region, Myitkyina District, Kachin State was held on Friday at the Tan Phe Village, Myitkyina Township.

U Aung Kyaw Htoo, director, Kachin State Development Supervision Office, Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, Ministry of Border Affairs attended the ceremony and provided Ks14.028 million worth of a month ration including 364 sacks of rice, 620 visses of oil, 930 visses of peas and 155 visses of salt. Also, present at the ceremony were Colonel Tun Nay Lin, officials from Myitkyinna District Administration Department and departmental organisations.

In the evening, the U Aung Kyaw Htoo and party went to Lan Gwa Village, Namtee Town and provided Ks 14.028 million worth of similar aid for 1,000 members of displaced families. Present at the event were Colonel Kyaw Khaing Tun and departmental officials.

Similarly, Assistant Director General U Myo Lwin from Tanai Township development supervision office and officials also provided nearly Ks 5.1 million worth of foodstuff including rice sacks, oil, peas and salt for 218 displaced people from Aung Lawd Village, Tanai Township. Also, on 24 April, aid provided by the Ministry of Border Affairs were delivered to 162 displaced people from Man Wal Village, Hpakant Township. Ministry of Border Affairs is not only providing foods to the displaced people but also carrying out necessary development work for the villages in Kachin State. A five-mile long Chaungwa-Man Wal dirt road will be constructed in the near future, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Ministry of Border Affairs officials provide aid to displaced families in Myitkyina District, Kachin State on 28 April. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye holds talks with representatives from AHA Centre and SCDF in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Officials discuss with experts from AHA Centre and SCDF over Htein Bin Garbage Dump fire

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye met and discussed with Mr. Yos Malole from ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), and Mr. Mohamed Firoz and Mr. Kenneth Mak from Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), at the Women Development Department in Yangon yesterday on the matter of the Yangon Region, Hlinethaya Township, Htein Bin Garbage Dump fire.

During the meeting, matters relating to work done to date about the fire, difficulties faced, future works and technical support required were discussed. The meeting was also attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor and officials from Yangon Region Fire Service Department.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Health Ministry continues support of health sector for Hlinethaya garbage fire

THE MINISTRY of Health and Sports is continuing to provide cooperation works in the health sector for the public, in response to the fire at Htein Bin garbage dump, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region.

Some 27 inpatients, on 26 and 27 April, and one more on 28 April as well as 27 outpatients were treated for smoke inhalation and other related ailments at Hlinethaya People's Hospital since the garbage dump fire started on 21 April. The carboxyhaemoglobin level in the blood of the patients treated in the hospital on 28 April, a measure of how much carbon dioxide has been inhaled, was found to be normal. Of the patients undergoing treatment at the hospital, 12 were discharged from the hospital on 27 April, one was transferred to Yangon General Hospital, while the condition of the remaining 14 patients is improving. The Ministry of Health and Sports conducted a coordination meeting with the related departments and organisations at Hlinethaya People's Hospital on the morning of 28 April.

The Yangon region Public Health Department is reporting daily to the regional government about the results of the air quality measurements and the status of patients undergoing treatment for smoke inhalation and related ailments. The Ministry of Health and Sports is closely monitoring the occurrence of smoke inhalation and related ailments and is coordinating and working with the (Yangon) regional government, related departments and other organisations including World Health Organisation (WHO). —Myanmar News Agency ■

Effective and speedy dousing of Htein Bin Garbage Dump fire with assistances and suggestions of foreign experts

IT is learnt that assistances and suggestions of foreign experts will be obtained for effective and speedy dousing of Htein Bin Garbage Dump fire.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe said, "Since yesterday (27 April) the fire is being doused with 2,000 gallons of Bio Foam that were brought from Thailand. Initial requirement is 5,000 gallons. The remaining amount will be brought in later in the evening (28 April). Experts from Thailand had also arrived and their assistances and suggestions will be obtained to douse the fire."

"The fire is not an ordinary fire on the surface. It is an underground fire caused by methane gas from the garbage. Smokes were coming out from the fire underneath. Bio Foam needs to be injected deep into the garbage dumb like an injection is being injected. The (underground) fire in Thailand back in 2014 was doused in this way. The fire at that time was similar in area to the fire here. It took more than seven days to douse the fire at that time. Experts that arrive here were involved in dousing that fire and they had experience about it. They will study the present fire with other experts who are also arriving and will suggest a solution(s)" added the Yangon mayor. Mr. Natthun Lanogthong, a high ranking fire department expert from Thailand who was involved in fighting the 2014 garbage dump fire in Bangkok, Thailand said, "I'm here because Myanmar asked for assistance. Myanmar and Thailand are good neighbors and this is why we are here too. At the moment we are still studying the ground situation. At this initial stage, there is a requirement for personal equipment."

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials hold talks with experts from Thailand for effective and speedy dousing of dump fire. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Although 90 per cent of the fire has been put out, fire underneath the garbage dump is still emitting smokes and efforts toward putting it out completely is being continued and the suggestions of the foreign experts will be used, it is learnt. As part of this work, a meeting was held at the command post near the fire yesterday afternoon for a speedy and effective elimination of the fire. The meeting was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, officials from Yangon City Development Committee, high ranking officers from Fire Department, Tatmadaw and experts from Thailand.—Zaw Gyi ■

Dance troupe entertaining as part of Myanmar-Viet Nam joint cultural performance at National Theatre in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Myanmar-Viet Nam joint cultural performance

A MYANMAR-Viet Nam joint cultural performance titled "Honoring brands in cultural activities and international integration" was held at National Theatre of Yangon yesterday evening. The performance was attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Viet Nam Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Dr. Luan Thuy Duong, diplomats from embassies in Yangon and invited guests.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Viet Nam Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Dr. Luan Thuy Duong delivered a message of greeting before the performance.

The performance was held to commemorate the 43rd anniversary of Myanmar-Viet Nam friendship and relationship. Just as Myanmar-Viet Nam joint cultural performance is being conducted in Yangon, Myanmar artistes were in Viet Nam conducting a similar joint cultural performance at the same time. The joint performances were the result of the Cultural Cooperation Program (2017-2020) signed between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam it is learnt.—Zaw Gyi ■

Invitation for Bids

Loan Agreement No.MY-P8 dated 26/March/2015
IFB No. 1(T)DPTSC(PTP)/2018-2019

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received ODA Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The Bid is invited by Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) for the design, supply, installation including Civil and Building works of the following 500kV GIS Substations.

Sr. No	Invitation for Bid	Descriptions	Issuing Date	Submission Deadline Date and Time	Non-refundable Document Fee
1	MYP8, JICA, ODA Loan	500/230/33kV, 3x500MVA Meik Hti La (Kan Kaung) Substation 500/230/33kV, 1x500MVA Taung Oo (Sa Ba Gywe) Substation	3/May/2018	31/July/2018 (14:00hr)	Purchase order with Myanmar Kyats which is equivalent to USD 1,000.

2. The Eligible Nationality of the Bidder shall be Japan in the case of the single contractor. In case of a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partners is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount. This scheme is based on applicable guidelines of Japanese ODA Loan.

3. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the website (http://www.moee.gov.mm) or the documents from the Material Planning Department, Department of Power Transmission and System Control, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Office No.27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

4. Bid documents must be delivered to the address above mentioned on or before the deadline date and time.

5. The Bid must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than four hundred million yen (JPY 400,000,000).

6. Technical Bid will be opened on 31/July/2018 at 14:00 hr at the Department of Power Transmission and System Control, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Office No.27, Nay Pyi Taw in the presence of representatives from Bidders.

7. Any request for the extension of bid submission dead line shall not be allowed.

Tender Committee
Department of Power Transmission and System Control
Ministry of Electricity and Energy, office No.27,
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone : 067- 3410282, 3410209

Mamma Mia! ABBA make new music after 35 years

STOCKHOLM — "Mamma Mia! Here we go again": Sweden's legendary disco group ABBA announced on Friday that they have reunited to record two new songs, 35 years after their last single, sparking joy and surprise among fans.

"We all four felt that, after some 35 years, it could be fun to join forces again and go into the recording studio. So we did," the group said in a statement after repeatedly vowing they would never reunite.

The new songs "I Still Have Faith In You" and "Don't Shut Me Down" were recorded last summer, the band's manager Gorel Hanser told TT news agency.

The quartet split up in 1982 after dominating the disco scene for more than a decade with hits like "Waterloo", "Dancing Queen", "Mamma Mia" and "Super Trouper".

"It was like time had stood still and that we only had been away on a short holiday. An extremely joyful experience!" members Agnetha Faltskog, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Anni-Frid Lyngstad and Benny Andersson added.

The group, which sold more than 400 million albums, have not sung together publicly since 1986.

"I think it's going to sound pretty much like their last songs from 1982, with quite a mild tempo, not like 'Voulez-Vous' or 'Gimme Gimme Gimme'," Carl Magnus Palm, who has written several books about the group, told AFP.

Swedish music band ABBA – who feature as wax figures at a museum in Stockholm – are planning to release two new songs. **PHIOTO: AFP**

"Frida's and Agnetha's voices are the same, so it won't be a huge difference," he said.

Palm said he was stunned by Friday's announcement.

"I'm as surprised as everyone else.... They've always been so adamant that they weren't going to make new music."

The news came as Sweden mourned the death of another of its music sensations, Avicii, one of the world's most successful DJs whose real name was Tim Bergling. He was found dead a week ago in Oman where he had been on holiday with friends.

'Come of age'

Computerised avatars are to perform "I Still Have Faith In You" in a TV special produced by NBC and the BBC to be broadcast in December, the group said.

"We have come of age, but the song is new. And it feels good."

Bjorn, 73, was married to Agnetha, 68, and Benny, 71, was married to Anni-Frid, 72.

The group dominated the 1970s disco scene with their glitzy costumes, kitsch dance routines and catchy melodies.

They first found global fame after winning the Eurovision Song Contest in 1974 with "Waterloo". While they have appeared in public together on rare occasions, they have never reunited to perform as a group, and have vowed that won't ever happen.

"There is simply no motivation to regroup. Money is not a factor and we would like people to remember us as we were," Ulvaeus said in a 2008 interview.

Friday's announcement elicited as much joy as shock among observers. Richard Skold, a 46-year-old ABBA fan who works at a Stockholm book store, jumped up with surprise after hearing the news.

"This is the craziest thing I've heard! I never thought this would happen. And the fact that they're all still alive is fantastic!" he told AFP.

'The same wonderful chemistry'

The group's manager Gorel Hanser told TT that hearing the four record the two new songs was "just like in the ABBA days".

"It was the same wonderful chemistry. It was as if time had stood still," Hanser said.

"Everyone got into their role and sang, and sang and sang," she said, adding the band was not planning to tour together in real life.

Their popularity has continued to grow over the years, with the 1999 hit musical "Mamma Mia" and the 2008 film of the same name starring Meryl Streep bringing their music to a whole new generation of fans.

ABBA's music also featured prominently in two cult Australian films, "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" and "Muriel's Wedding", both released in 1994.

In 2013, the world's first museum dedicated to ABBA opened in Stockholm, offering visitors a chance to get up close and personal with the foursome with a little help from modern technology.—AFP ■

China's Wanda opens its answer to Hollywood

QINGDAO (Shandong Province) — The "movie metropolis" in eastern China is the size of 500 football fields, and was initiated by the conglomerate Wanda

A massive "movie metropolis" billed as China's answer to Hollywood opened on Saturday, aiming to boost the domestic film industry and attract foreign producers.

Fifty billion yuan ($7.9 billion) has been invested in building the studio complex in the eastern port city of Qingdao, according to the project's initiator, Chinese conglomerate Dalian Wanda, which is owned by one of China's richest men Wang Jianlin.

But the opening lacked the high-wattage star power that turned out for the project's inauguration in 2013, when Hollywood A-listers Leonardo DiCaprio, John Travolta and Nicole Kidman showed up for a lavish event.

The waning celebrity interest comes as debt-laden Wanda has been forced to carry out a fire sale of its real estate holdings following an overseas spending spree over the last several years.

The size of 500 football fields, the 376-hectare "Qingdao Movie Metropolis" features 30 studios with "the highest international standards", according to Wanda. The company plans to build ten more studios.

The vast complex includes a school, a hospital, luxury hotels and a yacht club inspired by one in Monaco.

The mini-city also features a giant shopping mall with restaurants, an ice skating rink, an amusement park and the biggest movie theatre in Asia.

"This is the largest investment the global film and television industry has ever seen," the company said.

Wanda, whose interests range from real estate to entertainment, snatched up Legendary Entertainment — maker of "Jurassic World" and Christopher Nolan's "Batman" trilogy — for $3.5 billion in 2016, as well as US-based cinema chain AMC Theatres. In a bid to ease its debt problems, Wanda last year sold dozens of hotels and other projects to Sunac and real estate firm R&F Properties for around $10 billion.—AFP ■

Charles, saxophonist of Neville Brothers, dead at 79

NEW ORLEANS — Charles Neville, whose calm and joyfully assured saxophone pulled together the sound of R&B favourites The Neville Brothers, has died at age 79, the family said.

The New Orleans native, who had overcome drug addiction to lead a rigorously healthy life in his final years, died on Thursday at his home in the woods of western Massachusetts, a family statement said.

Singer Aaron Neville, the group's frontman who has pursued a successful solo career, said that if he had to choose brothers, "I would definitely choose you."

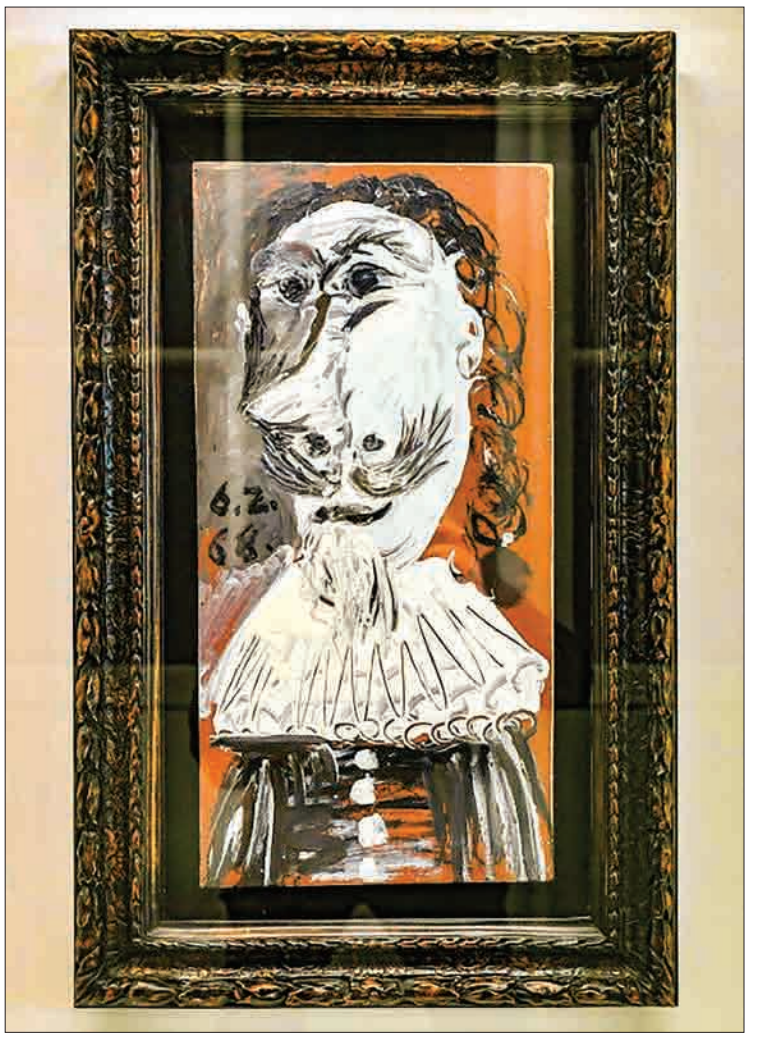
"You helped to mold me into who I am today and I'll always be thankful. I'll always see your special infectious smile on the stage next to me. It would always give me a smile," he said in the statement.

The Neville Brothers — whose best-known songs included "Sister Rosa," a tribute to civil rights icon Rosa Parks — brought together the rich heritages of New Orleans including R&B, funk, blues and Native American music.

The brothers, who were partially of Choctaw Indian ancestry, also helped put together The Wild Tchoupitoulas, which brought a wider audience to the Native American-influenced music heard at New Orleans' Mardi Gras carnivals.

Known for his horseshoe moustache and upbeat demeanor, Charles Neville had his start in the house band of the Dew Drop Inn, a legendary R&B joint in the city, and recalled always being around music. —AFP ■

Picasso painting with 25,000 owners on show in Geneva



The work was sold for two million Swiss francs ($2 million, 1.7 million euros) as 25,000 people purchased 40,000 shares at a price of 50 Swiss francs each. **PHOTO: AFP**

GENEVA — It won't hang on the wall in their living rooms, but they own it nonetheless: 25,000 Internet users banded together to buy a Picasso painting, which went on display in Geneva on Friday.

Visitors to Swiss bargain site Qoqa usually end up buying a new drill, a set of luggage or a cheap trip to Marrakesh.

But last December, the website that was created in 2005 with the motto: "We do anything, but it's all for you", proposed a painting by none other than artist superstar Pablo Picasso.

The 1968 painting titled "Buste de mousquetaire" (Musketeer Bust) was offered up at the bargain price of two million Swiss francs ($2.0 million, 1.7 million euros).

Over the course of three days, 25,000 people purchased 40,000 shares, at a price of 50 Swiss francs each, to become the proud owners of the artwork.

Qoqa's main objective with selling a work by arguably the most famous artist of the 20th century was obviously "to go viral" and get people talking about the website, company chief and founder Pascal Meyer told AFP.

But standing in the middle of the site's open workspace, with its young, hip staff bent over laptops, the 37-year-old stressed the move had also been inspired by a desire to democratise the art world, which he said was often viewed as "closed and obscure".

'Doubly impossible'

"When we launched this idea, people told us to forget it, that it was just impossible," said Meyer, who like the rest of Qoqa's workforce adheres to a no-tie policy.

"And then when we started talking about Picasso, people said, 'now that is doubly impossible'. So the challenge was irresistable," he enthused.

"We said: Let's do this thing. Let's try ... to democratise this area, which seems so inaccessible to regular people."

The company gathered a team of specialists to certify the authenticity of the painting, but also to ensure that the price was fair. Meyer refused to divulge how much Qoqa paid for the 58 x 28.5-centimetre painting, which portrays what looks like a man with a pointy beard and moustache, and a lacy collar.

He said only that the company bought it from a European seller who did not wish to be identified.

In the "musketeer" spirit of the painting, the owners have basically made a vow of "all for one, one for all" by pool decisions on where it will go on display.

Geneva's modern art mus6eum MAMCO was on Friday the first to receive that honour.

Director Lionel Bovier said he had been smitten by the project.

'More sexy, less boring'

For the reputedly high-brow museum, associating with the crowd sourcing scheme could serve to help broaden its appeal beyond the elitist crowd it usually attracts.

"The main interest for us is to foster a broader group of visiters..., to reach out and address this group of people who have become owners of the painting," Bovier told AFP.

"We hope to draw the biggest crowd possible from this group of 25,000 people," he said, adding that most of the buyers were from the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

Each owner has been issued his or her own card, bearing individual numbers and a picture of the painting, allowing them to come and admire it at will, for free. Bovier said he had drawn on Qoqa's technological know-how to display the painting in an original manner, using among other things a webcam and an interactive platform, "PiQasso", which will be available through the Qoqa site.

A 3D scan of the piece has also been made, allowing visitors to stroll through it.

"There are lots of little things that will make this a bit more sexy and bit less boring," Meyer said with a laugh. The museum meanwhile will offer a range of meetings, conferences and other activities around the painting, Picasso and also the conservation work museums usually do behind the scenes, Bovier said. The "Buste de mousquetaire" is set to remain in Geneva until October. It will be up to its owners to determine where it will go next—AFP ■

Complete de-noodlisation: Kim's dish sells out in Seoul

SEOUL — At Seoul's Nampo Myeonok noodle bar, the owner was rushed off her feet, shouting at a long queue of hungry punters that she was clean out of "Pyongyang naengmyeon".

"You'll have to wait around 40 minutes" for the broth to boil, she told the line snaking out of her door on Saturday.

A 1968 work by late Spanish artist Pablo Picasso entitled "Buste de mousquetaire" is on display at the Museum of Contemprary Art (MAMCO) in Geneva, which was bought online jointly by 25,000 people **PHOTO: AFP**

Demand for North Korea's signature dish peaked all over the South's capital after it was featured on the menu at Friday's historic inter-Korean summit and became a surprise talking point.

A cold noodle dish served in a cool mild broth, "Pyongyang naengmyeon" is usually garnished with pieces of meat and vegetables.

The long buckwheat noodle strands are usually cut with a pair of scissors to simplify the eating process.

The dish is already popular in the South but many saw the summit as a good excuse to indulge.

Thousands posted photos of the noodles they slurped down for lunch on Instagram with hashtags including #summit and #peacenaengmyeon.

North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un provoked laughter at the summit and among South Korean journalists at a press centre when he cracked jokes about the dish, hoping that the South's President Moon Jae-in "will be able to enjoy the Pyongyang naengmyeon that has travelled far".

He laughed before adding: "I shouldn't say far."

The noodles — a special request by Moon — had been crafted by a leading chef from Okryu-gwan, a famed restaurant in Pyongyang.

According to the North's state news agency KCNA, the dish "deeply impressed the participants".

At Nampo Myeonok, the verdict was unanimous — at least on the food.

"I came to this restaurant especially to eat Pyongyang naengmyeon. This place has been around for a long time and it's good," said diner Park Jae-chun.

Bass guitar player Kim Tae-hun said the dish made him feel "closer" to those on the other side of the border "because we also eat a lot of it".

But while the leaders made several references to unification of the two Koreas in their statement Friday, the culinary connections only went so far for some.

Park told AFP: "Personally I think it's okay for both South and North Korea to co-exist rather than unify as long as it's peaceful and we acknowledge each other."—AFP ■

Sagaing, Yadanabon play to 2-2 draw in MNL

SAGAING United played Yadanabon FC to a draw yesterday by a score of 2-2 at the home of Sagaing United, Monywa Stadium, in a hard-fought Week 11 Myanmar National League match.

Sagaing United lined up with its main players including Thiha Thu, Wai Phyo Thu, Friday and Thiha Zaw, while its competitor Yadanabon FC lined up with Captain Thein Than Win, standout player Si Thu Aung, Myo Ko Htun and youth star Win Naing Soe.

Both teams executed well in in the first half with speedy play and spirited counter-attacking.

Yadanabon, the visiting team, notched the opening goal at 15 minutes with a score by Win Naing Soe.

After giving up the opening goal, Sagaing attacked frequently and was rewarded at the 38-minute mark with a penalty shot.

Sagaing (red), Yadanabon (blue) vie for the ball in yesterday's MNL match at Monywa Stadium. **PHOTO:MNL**

The penalty shot was kicked into the net with authority by Akanmidu Friday, Sagaing's reliable expatriate midfielder from Nigeria.

The remaining minutes of the first half expired after cautious play by both teams.

Both teams made substitutions and changed tactics in the second half, resulting in more action on the field and an increase in scoring chances.

Sagaing United got the go-ahead goal at 60 minutes with a score by Kaung Zaw Htwe, set up by the support of Kyaw Swa Min.

But the happiness of the home team lasted less than a minute.

Yadanabon FC responded with a goal at 61 minutes with a very strong kick from substitute player Myo Zaw Oo.

With both teams motivated to score and emerge as the victor, the latter part of the match was a thriller, with Sagaing and Yadanabon both creating scoring opportunities. But neither team could convert. When the final whistle was sounded, players from both teams were exhausted due to full-on effort and the middle region's summer heat.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Neymar recovery on track, will be back for World Cup: doctor

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL —Neymar is working hard to recover from the foot injury that sidelined him in February and will be back in action by this summer's World Cup, the Brazil team doctor who operated on him promised on Friday.

"Neymar is recovering the best way possible," Rodrigo Lasmar told GloboEsporte.

"He is working hard and the expectation is that he will arrive well-prepared so he can take part in excellent World Cup training," Lasmar said.

Neymar who is recuperating in a Rio de Janeiro coastal mansion, said last week he would not return to the pitch until at least 17 May — the date of his final medical exam following his surgery in Belo Horizonte on 3 March.

That pretty much puts a lid on his season with Paris Saint-Germain — whose last fixture is scheduled against Caen on 19 May — but he remains on track to play in the World Cup in Russia from 14 June to 15 July.

Brazil's players will attend a training camp from 21 to 27 May in Teresopolis, but Lasmar acknowledged that Neymar's time off the pitch means he'll at first need a tailored fitness programme in the run-up to the World Cup.

"We need to improve his physical fitness because it has probably decreased.

Players recovering from injury deserve individual evaluation to design the best strategy for them," Lasmar said.

The 26-year-old forward — the most expensive player in history — broke a bone in his right foot on 26 February during his team's 3-0 rinsing of Marseille.

But optimistic, he said last week he hoped to bounce back to being even better than before in a bid to earn another star as a world champion with the Brazilian men's national team. —AFP ■

Neymar, who is recuperating in a Rio de Janeiro coastal mansion, said last week he would not return to the pitch until at least 17 May. **PHOTO: AFP**

Marjan Sekulovski (left), receives Shan United jersey from an official. **PHOTO: SUFC**

Shan United signs Marjan Sekulovski as head coach

Shan United yesterday signed Marjan Sekulovski, a highly respected coach with extensive experience in Myanmar football, as its head coach, according to the Shan United FC webpage.

Sekulovski, originally from Macedonia, possesses a UEFA Pro License, mandatory for coaching in the English Premier League, and is considered the most successful football head coach in modern professional Myanmar football history, with three Myanmar Cup Championship titles over the last three seasons. Sekulovski, 45, was head coach of Ayeyawady United in 2015 and Yangon United in 2016. "I am really happy to come back to Myanmar. Shan United is a premier team in Myanmar National League, as well as a champion. I am congratulating myself to be the head coach of Shan United", said Marjan Sekulovski. "The reason I'm here is to defend the title. I know well most of the players in Shan United, as some of them are the old players from Yangon and Ayeyawady FC. Shan United is in a great shape, comprised of well experienced footballers and skillful youth players. I believe we can all together defend our championship title".—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

Youths and Leadership

Daniel
Technological University (Hmawbi)

AS parents are becoming interested in raising their children to be a skillful person since childhood, they get interested in how to take care of them to be highly independent with strong confident people. Recently, many training centers are giving the training to youths how to be a good leader to make the world better place, improve our society ourselves and improve our life styles with some important skills like giving presentation in public ect.They give and share some informations and knowledges to us. And they want youths to become interested in leading the world systemically by themself.

It is really important to youths to take part in leading roles in our country because we are definitely the ones who can change our Land, Myanmar, to be a better place, to improve with international standards more than now, to get rich and so many things. It is because we are youths at the present time and if we involve in leading roles in some society groups, we will get to know what a good leader does and how to avoid to be a bad leader as we have seen the worst situations of our land by letting the bad leader to lead us.

Just think about our country's situation in many fields like education, health and living standard basically, you can actually see that we do not have enough provided staffs in such kind of fields and what's more is that childern are being forced to learn like a parrot (they have to read and learn all subjects in schools whatever they need it or not).

SEE PAGE S-3

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

GET YOUR CITY HERO KIT NOW!

City Hero Kit provided by **City Mart Holding Co,. Ltd** is available free of charge at **The Global New Light of Myanmar** for those who contributed their works to our Next Generation Platform of the Sunday Special Pull-out of **The Global New Light of Myanmar**.

ENGLISH LESSON (1)

By C. T. O

*(ယခု **Lesson (1)** တွင် **am, is , are, was, were** တို့ကို မှန်မှန်ကန်ကန် အသုံးချနိုင်ရေးအတွက် လေ့လာကြရန် စီစဉ်ထားပါသည်။)*

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

E. TENSES အချိန်ကာလ။

1. am, is, are တို့သည် Simple Present Tense (ရိုးရိုးပစ္စုပ္ပန်ကာလ) ကိုပြသည်။
2. was နှင့် were တို့သည် Simple Past Tense (ရိုးရိုးအတိတ်ကာလ) ကိုပြသည်။
3. ဖြစ်ခြင်းပြကြိယာ am, is, are တို့ကို Present Perfect Tense အဖြစ်သုံးလိုလျှင် အများနာမ်နှင့် တွဲပါက have been ကိုသုံး၍၊ အနည်းနာမ်နှင့်တွဲပါက has been ကိုသုံးရသည်။
4. ယင်းတို့ကို Future Tense (အနာဂါတ်ကာလ) အဖြစ်သုံးလိုလျှင် Shall be, will be ဟု ပြောင်းသုံးရသည်။ ဆက်လက်လေ့လာပါ။

(a) Simple Past Tense ရိုးရိုးအတိတ်ကာလ (was, were) အတိတ်ကာလ တစ်ချိန်ချိန်တွင် ဖြစ်ပျက်ခဲ့ သည်ကို ပြဆိုလိုလျှင် was, were တို့ကိုသုံးရသည်။ (တိကျသော အချိန်ပိုင်းပြစာလုံးများ၊ စကားစုများ နှင့်တွဲ၍ သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။)

1. He was a soldier during the war.
   သူစစ်အတွင်းက စစ်သားတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်ခဲ့သည်။
2. She was a student in 1960.
   သူမသည် ၁၉၆၀ ခုနှစ်က ကျောင်းသူတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်ခဲ့သည်။
3. They were footballers 15 years ago.
   သူတို့လွန်ခဲ့သော ၁၅ နှစ်က ဘောလုံးသမားများဖြစ်ခဲ့ကြသည်။

(b) Present Perfect Tense (has been, have been)

အကြောင်းအရာတစ်ရပ်သည် အတိတ်တစ်ချိန်ချိန်မှစ၍ ယခုတိုင်အောင် တစ်လျှောက်လုံးဖြစ်ပျက်ခဲ့သည်ကို ပြလိုလျှင် ယင်းကိုသုံးရသည်။ ယင်းသည် အတိတ်နှင့်ပစ္စုပ္ပန်ကို တွဲဖက်သုံးစွဲသောကာလဖြစ်သည်။

Since, For တို့နှင့် တွဲသုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။

1. He has been an engineer since 1976.
   သူ အင်ဂျင်နီယာဖြစ်နေတာ ၁၉၇၆ ခုနှစ်ကတည်းကပဲ။
2. They have been farmers for 22 years.
   သူတို့ လယ်သမားများဖြစ်နေကြတာ ၂၂ နှစ်ရှိပြီ။
3. She has been a clerk since 1972.
   သူမ စာရေးမဖြစ်နေတာ ၁၉၇၂ ခုနှစ်ကတည်းကပဲ။
4. I have been a driver for 11 years.
   ကျွန်တော် ကားမောင်းသမားဖြစ်နေတာ ၁၁ နှစ်ရှိပါပြီ။

Future Tense အနာဂတ်ကာလ (Shall be/ will be)

1. He will be a doctor next year.
   သူ နောင်နှစ်ခါ ဆရာဝန်တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်လိမ့်မည်။
2. She will be a teacher in 1984.
   သူမ ၁၉၈၄ ခုနှစ်တွင် ဆရာမတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်လိမ့်မည်။
3. They will be sailors next month.
   သူတို့သည် နောက်လတွင် သင်္ဘောသားများဖြစ်လိမ့်မည်။
4. She will be a writer one day.
   သူမသည် တစ်ချိန်ချိန်မှာ စာရေးဆရာမ တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်လိမ့်မည်။

F. Interrogative and Negative Forms

အမေးဝါကျနှင့် အငြင်းဝါကျပုံစံ။

(a) am, is, are, was, were တို့ဖြင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသော စာကြောင်းများကို အမေးဝါကျ ပြောင်းလို လျှင်ယင်းစာလုံးများကို စာကြောင်းရှေ့သို့ထုတ်ရသည်။ မေးခွန်းအမှတ်အသား (Question mark) ကို စာကြောင်းနောက်ဆုံးတွင် ထည့်ရသည်။

ဥပမာ -

1. She is a nurse.
   Is she a nurse?
2. They are pilots.
   Are they pilots?
3. He was a student in 1954.
   Was he a student in 1954?
4. They were soldiers in 1945.
   Were they soldiers in 1945?

(b) အငြင်းဝါကျ တည်ဆောက်လိုလျှင် ယင်းစကားလုံးတို့ နောက်တွင် not ကပ်ထည့်ရသည်။

ဥပမာ -

1. She is a cook. (ထမင်းချက်)
   She is not a cook.
2. He was an engineer.
   He was not an engineer.
3. They are travellers. (ခရီးသည်)
   They are not travellers.
4. We were workers.
   We were not workers.

(c) has been, have been, will be တို့နှင့် တည်ဆောက်ထားသော ဝါကျများကို အမေးဝါကျပြောင်းရန် has, have, will တို့ကို စာကြောင်းရှေ့သို့ထုတ်ရသည်။

1. He has been a reporter for 15 years. (သတင်းထောက်)
   Has he been a reporter for 15 years?
2. They have been soldiers since 1960.
   Have they been soldiers since 1960?
3. She will be a midwife (သားဖွားဆရာမ) next year.
   Will she be a midwife next year?

(d) အငြင်းဝါကျ တည်ဆောက်လိုလျှင် has, have, will တို့နောက်ကပ်၍ Not ထည့်ရသည်။

ဥပမာ -

1. He has not been a reporter for 15 years.
2. She will not be a midwife next year.

G. To နှင့် **မူရင်းကြိယာ** တွဲဖက်ထားသော **စကားလုံးအစုအဝေး (Phrase)** များသည် နာမ်ဝါကျပြုတ် **(Noun phrase)** များဖြစ်သည်။ ယင်းတို့ကိုလည်း am, is, are, was, were တို့နှင့် တွဲသုံးနိုင်သည်။

1. To be a doctor is her ambition.
   ဆရာဝန်တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်ရန်မှာ သူမ၏ဘဝရည်မှန်းချက်ဖြစ်သည်။
   အောက်ပါကဲ့သို့လည်း ရေးနိုင်သည်။
   Her ambition is to be a doctor.

To be a doctor ကို စာကြောင်းနောက်ပိုင်းသို့ ပို့လိုလျှင် it ကို is, was နှင့် တွဲသုံးနိုင်သည်။

It is her ambition to a doctor.

2. To meet is to part.
   တွေ့ဆုံခြင်းသည် ခွဲခွာရန်ဖြစ်သည်။
3. To work hard is our duty.
   ကြိုးစားရန်မှာ ငါတို့၏တာဝန်ဖြစ်သည်။
   It is our duty to work hard.
4. To meet, to know, to love and then to part is the sad tale of many a human heart.
   တွေ့ဆုံရခြင်း၊ သိကျွမ်းရခြင်း၊ချစ်ခင်ရခြင်းနှင့် ခွဲခွာရခြင်းတို့ သည် လူ့အသဲနှလုံးများစွာ၏ ကြေကွဲဖွယ် ဇာတ်လမ်းဖြစ်သည်။

H. ဘာသာစကားတိုင်းတွင် ယင်းကိုသုံးစွဲသော လူများ၏ ဓလေ့စရိုက် အလိုက် ပေါ်ပေါ်လာသော ထူးခြားသည့်စကားစုများရှိသည်။

ဥပမာ - အတောင်အလက်၊ လက်စလက်နှ၊ ယောင်တောင်တောင်၊ ကြောင်တက်တက်။

ထို့အပြင် မူရင်းအဓိပ္ပာယ်အပြင် ဒုတိယအဓိပ္ပာယ်ပါရှိသော စကားစုများ။

ဥပမာ - ခြေထိုးသည် (ကုန်းတိုက်သည်)။ ယင်းတို့ကို အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတွင် Idioms ဟုခေါ်သည်။ Idioms များကို ကျက်၍ သုံးစွဲတတ်ရန်လိုသည်။

1. Khin Khin is the belle of our town.
   ခင်ခင်သည် ကျွန်တော်တို့မြို့၏ ကွမ်းတောင်ကိုင် တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
2. It is a red letter-day in my life.
   ထိုနေ့သည် ကျွန်တော့်ဘဝတွင် နေ့ထူးနေ့မြတ် တစ်နေ့ဖြစ်သည်။
3. Life is not a bed of roses.
   ဘဝဟူသည် နှင်းဆီမွှေ့ရာမဟုတ်။
4. I am a man of my words.
   ကျွန်တော်သည် ကတိတည်သူ တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
5. He is a man of few words.
   သူသည် စကားနည်းသူတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
6. Hla Hla is my better-half.
   လှလှသည် ကျွန်တော်၏အိမ်သူသက်ထားဖြစ်သည်။
7. Soe Aung is my bosom friend.
   စိုးအောင်သည် ကျွန်တော်၏အရင်းနှီးဆုံးနှင့် အယုံကြည်ရဆုံး မိတ်ဆွေဖြစ်သည်။
8. He is a fair-weather friend.
   သူသည် သာပေါင်းညာစား မိတ်ဆွေတစ်ဦးဖြစ်သည်။
9. U Ko Ko is a hen-pecked husband.
   ဦးကိုကိုသည် မိန်းမကြောက်သော လင်ယောကျ်ား တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
10. We are neither beasts nor angels.
    ငါတို့သည် ကောင်းကင်တမန်လည်းမဟုတ်။ သားရဲတိရိစ္ဆာန်လည်းမဟုတ်။
11. This is a cock and bull story.
    လုပ်ကြံထားသော ဇာတ်လမ်းတစ်ခုသာဖြစ်သည်။
12. The eagle is a bird of prey.
    လင်းယုန်သည် သား စား ငှက် တစ်ကောင်ဖြစ်သည်။
13. The donkey is a beast of burden.
    မြည်းသည် ဝန်တင် တိရိစ္ဆာန်တစ်ကောင်ဖြစ်သည်။
14. He is a greenhorn.
    သူသည် အတွေ့အကြုံ မရှိသေးသော လူသစ်တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
15. Aung Tun is my right-hand man.
    အောင်ထွန်းသည် ငါ၏ညာလက်ရုံးဖြစ်သည်။
16. U Wunna is a man of letters.
    ဦးဝဏ္ဏသည် စာတတ်ပေတတ်တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
17. He is a fish out of water.
    သူသည် ရေနည်းငါးပမာ ဒုက္ခရောက်နေသူဖြစ်သည်။
18. U Kaung is a well-read man.
    ဦးကောင်းသည် စာပေ အသိဉာဏ်ကြွယ်ဝသူတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
19. He is a man in a thousand.
    သူသည် မတစ်ထောင် တစ်ကောင်ဘွားဖြစ်သည်။

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

ဤအင်္ဂလိပ်စာသင်ခန်းစာများသည် ၁၉၈၁-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လမှ ၁၉၈၃-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလအထိ ဂျီဒီးယန်း မဂ္ဂဇင်းတွင် ဖော်ပြခဲ့သော သင်ခန်းစာများဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ကျောင်းသားကျောင်းသူများနှင့် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာကို လေ့လာလိုက်စားသူများ လက်မလွတ်သင့်သော သင်ခန်းစာများဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အပတ်စဉ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း အပိုင်းလိုက် ဖော်ပြပေးသွားပါမည်။

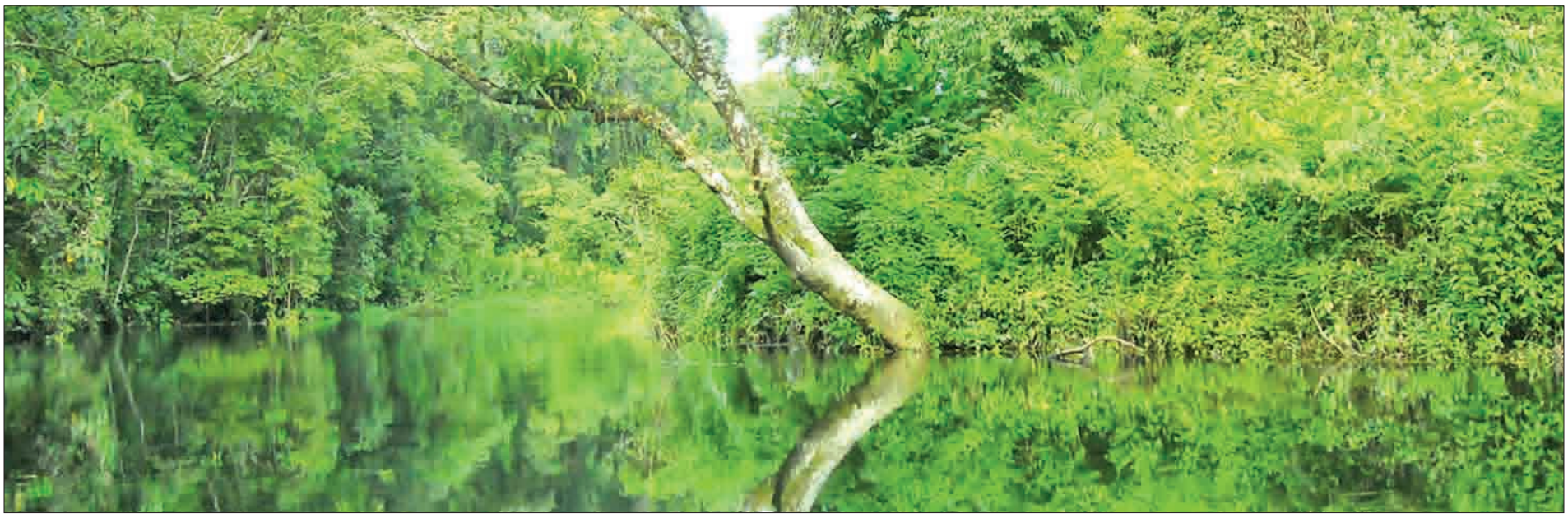


Photo: WCS Myanmar

Why Conservation is vital to existence of wild animals

Hein Thet Zaw
Frist Year (YTU)

RECENTLY, according to the news related to wildlife, it is obvious that population of wild animals has declined to a terrible trend. Thankfully, as some conservationalists as well as experts on the field of wildlife had worked together in order to find out the problems. So, there may be a certain reasons why wild animals has been huntered. In this article,from my point of view, I am going to describe a few points below.

Firstly, despite some wild animals, most of the wild animals are enormously valuable to get a huge amount of money especially ivory which is persuading treasure hunters to killing. In this socio-economic era, it is sure that many people make an approach to easier way of finding wages. So these shortcuts would cause the wild animals to death without doubt, in fact. Secondly, due to the lack of knowledge upon the wild animal conservation as well as eagerness for the solution to hunger, it may seem obvious that many lives are being killed for no reason. Thirdly, circumstances currently occurring in Myanmar have a huge impact on the environment. What is the circumstance ? Probably, the industrial development which is beneficial for the workers and labours who is lack of wages and who is eager to make a living for their families but quite a bad thing for the conservation as well as safety. Ironically, about a decades ago, the laws for the safety and prevention of the forests,a national property,are reinforced but from the military government age, companies which is unrestrictedly extracting a supreme amount of trees from the forest have not been punished yet still wood-logging occurs in many parts of Myanmar. To ensure that, there are many references in the daily newspaper that state about the non-existence of trees. As a result, drought, storms, and an ultimate Nargis cyclone happened and destroyed many areas in Myanmar within a blink and many houses are vanished.

How do we conserve forests and wild animals? A simple answer, by conserving in a literally substainable way, and in a pratical and scientific way. In general, people think that everyone cannot perform such conservation and a positive act but by contrast,as we can lecture them on how to prevent from wood-logging and airborne hunting and many other controversial issues. To perform that we need assistance of many refugees as well as volunteers around all parts of Myanmar. Additionally, I would like to recommend every Burmese to make a habit of planting small plants or perhaps flowers in order to fulfil one's duty.

Most importantly, government officials along with the residences from the Upper Myanmar to the Lower one should make a commitment to stay apart from the ritual process and to establish a healthier lifestyle.

Photo: WCS Myanmar

Youths and Leadership

FROM PAGE S-1

But sadly, schools do not teach the important skills like critical thinking, how to cooperate with friends or strangers properly or so.

Those kind of learning system can not help to improve our country, may be they will graduate with many good recommendations, certificates and many diplomas in certain fields by learning this way but those are really just the words writing down on beautifully decorated papers. May be those can make them to earn good salaries but they can not be a good leader for our country with those qualifications.

So what if we have learned what leadership means in our youth? What if we took part in leading role in some groups like book clubs, student council, or the groups comprising with youths themselves? If we did it since our chilhoods, there is no wonder,we can be a good leader when we grow up. We can even change the wrong systems that had been used by the some elders for the children, next generations. We can improve our education system with teaching and training them how to think critically on the problems or something like that.

Furthermore, we, most of the youths in our country, are almost forgetting that we can change and improve our country and most of the parents also did not courage their children to get interested in it. Parents are to raise their children to be good people themselves and they oblige to teach children to contribute our country in different ways as much as they can.

To put it in a nut shell, we have already seen the history of best leader, General Aung San, the great leader of so far. We know how important of leading country. Besides, there are now so much opportunities for youths to participate in leading roles in country and all we have to do is to have a whish to take part and to take the challenges by ourselves. So do not be panic and let us change the world together starting with our country, Myanmar.

Kayah ethic family enjoys a leasure time at their home. **PHOTO: WIN NAING**

Kayah State's cultural diversity, charm drawing visitors

By Yamanya

Kayah ethnic women show their traditional skills for making cotton wools in Loikaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

KAYAH State is a state of Myanmar. Situated in eastern Myanmar, it is bounded on the north by Shan State, on the east by Thailand's Mae Hong Son Province, and on the south and west by Kayin State.

It lies approximately between 18° 30' and 19° 55' north latitude and between 94°40' and 97° 93' east longitude. The area is 11,670 km² (4,530 sq miles).

It is inhabited primarily by the Karenni ethnic group, also known as Karreni or Kayah.

Ethnographers classify anywhere from seven to ten ethnic groups as native to Kayah State. In addition, Shan, Inthar, and Bamar live in the north and Pa-O in surrounding hills. Each group is also known by more than one name.

Kayah in eastern Myanmar is a region of mirror lakes and emerald fields, studded with soaring, craggy mountains. Nestled between Shan and Kayin, Kayah is Myanmar's smallest state by both geographical area. The main ethnic groups are the Kayah, Kayaw and Kayan (sometimes called by the Shan term Padaung, though most prefer Kayan.

With their towering brass neck coils, Kayan women are some of Myanmar's most recognisable people. Traditionally the rings are stacked higher as a girl goes through adolescence and are never taken off. The heavy loops give the appearance of lengthening the Kayan women's necks, but in fact compress their shoulders. There are many stories to explain the practice, including to protect against tiger attacks and to ward off unwanted suitors from other ethnic groups.

The rings are still regarded as a proud symbol of Kayan heritage, although fewer and fewer women opt to wear them. They have also generated controversy. The striking appearance of the Kayan women among this diaspora led to the creation of special tourist villages, likened to human zoos, where the women are put on display to be photographed by foreign visitors.

Three quarters of Kayah's population live in rural areas and agriculture is the economic backbone of the stateKayah's major crops are rice, maize, sesame and groundnuts. Two of these can be combined to make arguably the state's favourite product: rice wine.

Nevertheless, Kayah's natural beauty, great cultural diversity and laid back charm is likely to be a significant draw for visitors as Myanmar's tourism industry expands its reach.

The traditional dance troupe of Kayah ethnic people performs to welcome visitors to Loikaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

An elderly woman gives a blessing to a couple at a wedding ceremony.

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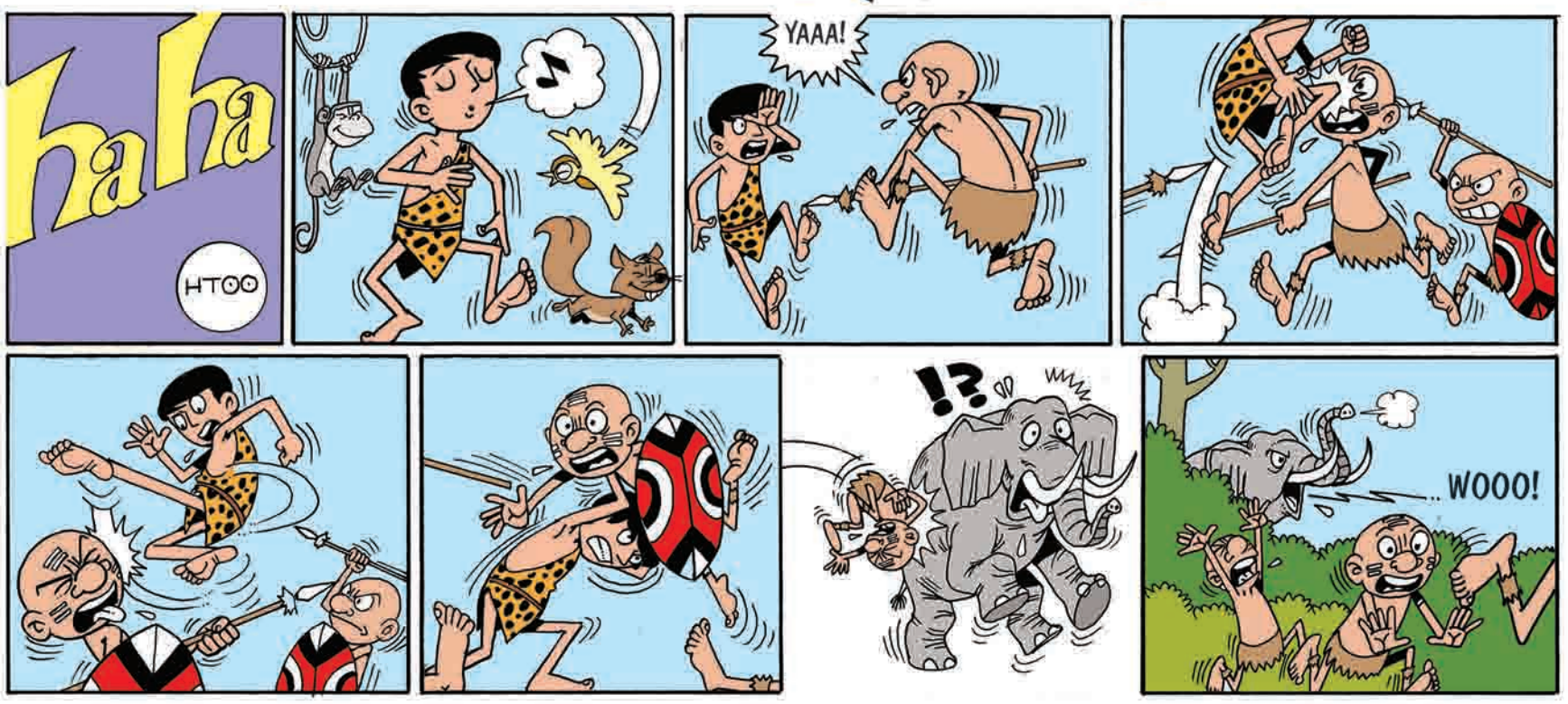

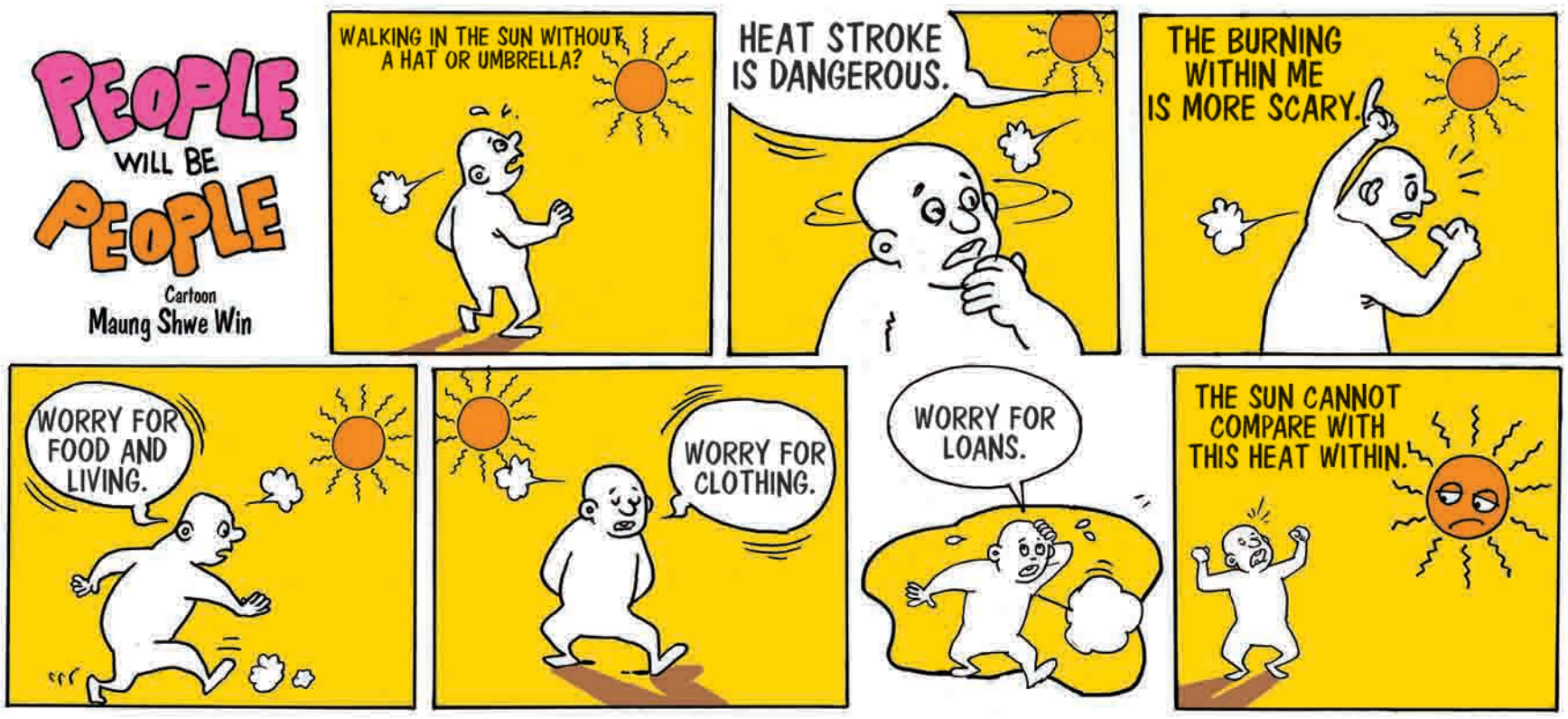

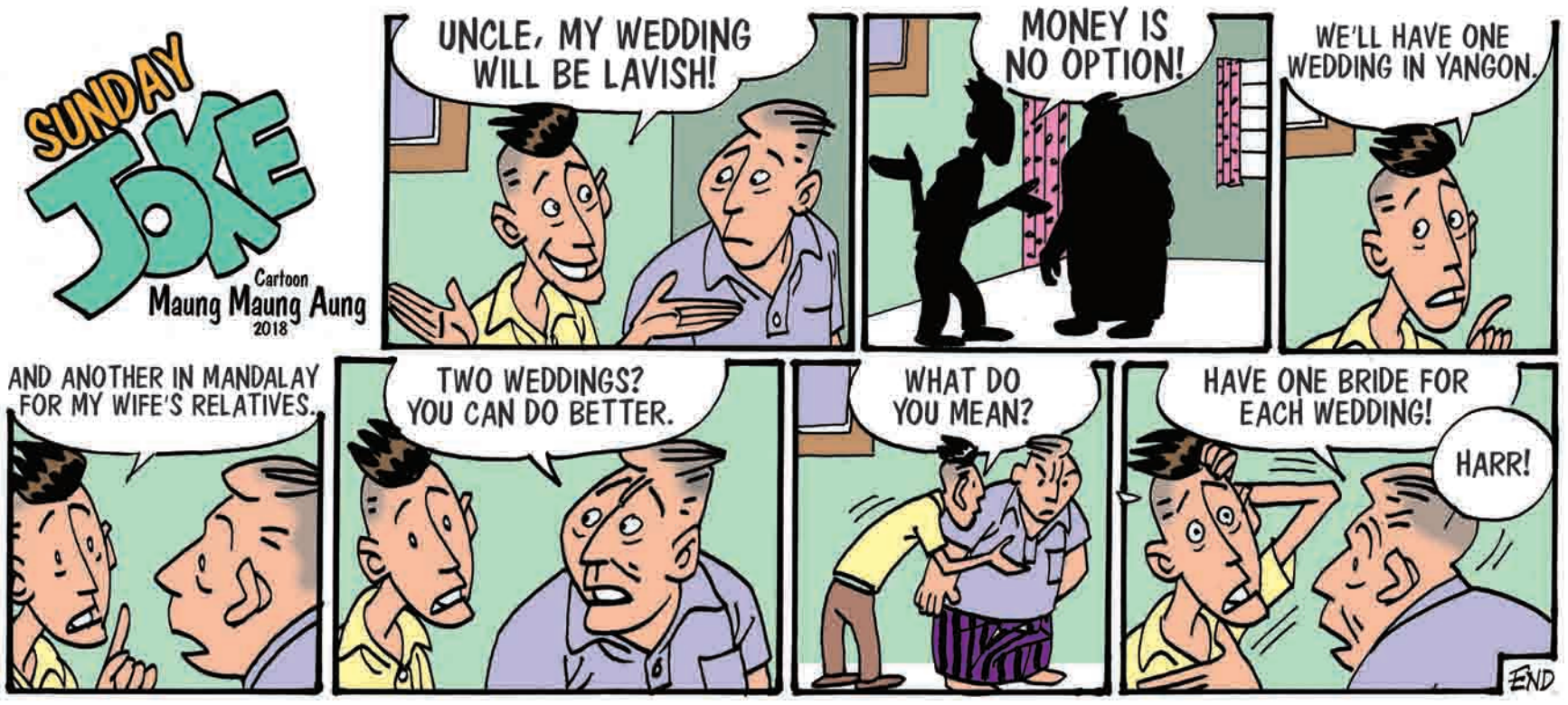

'The Rakhine situation is an internal affair of Myanmar. Russia does not involve itself in the internal affairs of other countries': Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Nikolay Listopadov

DURING the recent Thingyan Festival, the entire country celebrated the arrival of Myanmar New Year 1380. The Global New Light of Myanmar and Myanma Radio and Television interviewed Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Nikolay Listopadov for his New Year wishes and thoughts on the two-year performance of the incumbent government.

Q: Mingalabar Your Excellency. It hasn't been that long since the Myanmar New Year shifted from ME 1379 to ME 1380. Could you tell our readers your New Year wishes?

A: I am very happy for Myanmar and I know Thingyan passed with joyous celebrations. I wish for all Myanmar citizens to have peace of mind and prosperity in the New Year.

Thingyan is a happy occasion and there are many songs written for it. I don't have much of a talent for singing, but I have read Thingyan poems and I'd like to ring in the New Year with a Myanmar Thingyan poem. "The month of Tagu, exceptional beauty resides within. The golden motif on every maiden's head, no other flower can boast a grace so fair."

Q: Thank you for your New Year wishes and the lovely poem. Now could you tell us your impressions on the current government's two year performance and also how they have handled the Rakhine situation?

A: The current government has only been in power for two years, but I have seen a lot of accomplishments by them, especially in socio-economic development. They have also held the 21st Century Panglong conference twice and are readying for a third one. This is important, because a country cannot develop without peace.

The Rakhine situation is complex and sensitive. It's not something that can be solved quickly. In my view, I think the current government headed by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will solve the situation as quickly as they can. They are taking a comprehensive approach to it, so I think they will find a solution soon.

Q: What plans does Your Excellency have to strengthen relations between Russia and Myanmar in the coming years?

A: This year is a momentous year as it marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and Myanmar. Our two countries established diplomatic relations on 18 February 1948, and our relation has always been a friendly one. Based on this, we will further cooperation in all sectors.

During the Soviet Union era, our two countries cooperated on a lot of projects in Myanmar. In Yangon, we helped to build the Inya Lake Hotel and the Government Technical Institute (GTI) in Insein, while in Taunggyi we built Sao San Htun Hospital and Kyat Mauk Taung Dam in Mandalay Region. We are currently looking to help upgrade Sao San Htun Hospital.

Dr. Nikolay Listopadov, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar, talks during the interview with the Global New Light of Myanmar and MRTV. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

> "What I want to say is that the Rakhine situation is an internal affair of Myanmar. Russia, for instance, does not involve itself in the internal affairs of other countries because we believe no good consequences will arise from interference.

Q: Are there any challenges for potential Russian investors in Myanmar?

A: The Russian Embassy is working to invite Russian businesspersons and companies to come to Myanmar and we facilitate trade and businesses via the Russia-Myanmar Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation (RMIC). We held the second meeting in Moscow last year and we will hold the third one in Myanmar. Bilateral trade between our two countries is increasing. There are some challenges, but I think there are more opportunities for investment as well.

Q: What are your impressions on the international community and the UN's reactions to Myanmar handling the Rakhine situation?

A: What I want to say is that the Rakhine situation is an internal affair of Myanmar. Russia, for instance, does not involve itself in the internal affairs of other countries because we believe no good consequences will arise from interference. I think the Myanmar government and her people know better on how to solve its own problems. The international community can help Myanmar, but it should not directly involve itself in another country's affairs. I view the blaming and pressuring done by others as negative approaches. This is something that Myanmar and Bangladesh need to work together on.

Q: There have been threats to impose economic sanctions placed on Myanmar after the Rakhine incident occurred. What effects do you think this will have on Myanmar during its democratic transition?

A: I don't agree with sanctions or penalties. I think especially if the UN Security Council does not agree to the decision to impose sanctions on another country, then other countries should not be allowed to impose sanctions. It's not constructive and it could negatively affect the public. These problems can be solved peacefully with a diplomatic solution. Russia is also a multicultural country like Myanmar, so we know how complex these problems can be.

Q: What would you like to advise the government moving forward?

A: I don't want to give advice because as I've said before, Myanmar's government and her people know their situation better than me. All I want to say is that peace is very important and the government led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is trying its best to achieve lasting peace. I'm optimistic about Myanmar's development. It is Russia's wish as well that Myanmar will develop into a peaceful, prosperous country with whom we will maintain close, friendly relations.

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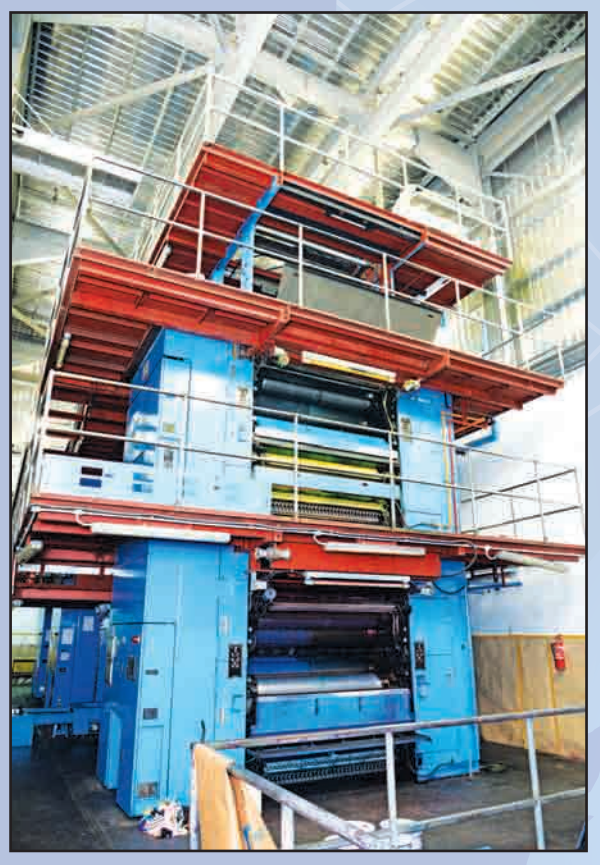

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