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State Counsellor talks about benefits of reading at opening of 'All Who Can Read Should Read' campaign

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered opening remarks at the "All Who Can Read Should Read" campaign held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Present at the event were Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and U Soe Win, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, state/region ministers, Hluttaw representatives, heads of departments, literati, writers, authors, paper readers, award winning librarians, officials from library foundations and partner organizations, officials, literature enthusiasts and invited guests.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered opening remarks at the event. In her opening speech, the State Counsellor expressed her opinion about the reason for writing, saying that there were two reasons for writing. One was to share experiences and feelings and the other was to influence others with your thoughts and ideas.

She highlighted the benefit of reading urging the people to have a habit and a strong desire to read.

"Why do I cherish books?"



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi warmly greets children at the booth of the Child-Friendly Library as she visits booths set up at the opening ceremony of "All Who Can Read Should Read" campaign in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Why I'm enthusiastic to read? It is because it is beneficial for me. Acquiring knowledge is one thing. This is a practical thing. The benefit of reading is to know things that are different from us, our surroundings, our nature and our culture," said the State Counsellor.

A book addict will want to

read books and will yearn for it if there were no books. But when they don't have books, they can think about the books that they had read and renew their strengths and spirits, she said.

She also highlighted the role of mobile libraries in the country in cultivating a habit of

reading in children.

"In the mobile library, we stock it up with books that children would like to read. Just by looking at the book cover will entice the youngsters to open it up and read it. We are doing it in such a way," she said.

(The unofficial translation of the full speech of the State

Counsellor is covered on Page 3, 4 and 5.)

Afterwards, the State Counsellor and event attendees posed for commemorative photos. Later the State Counsellor observed with interest the exhibits displayed. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

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Pyithu Hluttaw

10th regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw concludes

THE 10th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw concluded yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw following discussion of several issues.

Results of marine fish stocks survey expected to be released in May, 2019

At yesterday meeting, U Aung Sein of Dawei constituency asked Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation about the survey of the marine fish stocks by a team of Norwegian scientists in the Myanmar waters.

In reply to the questions, Deputy Minister for the Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said experts from the Norway and Myanmar conducted research on microplastics in the sea of Myanmar.

However, the results of the survey is being reviewed by the Food and Agriculture Organization in accordance with its rules and regulations and the results are expected to be released in May next year, he added.

Based on the results of the 2018 survey by the experts, the ministry would carry out better management for the fish stocks in the sea by re-designating the no fishing seasons and no fishing



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

zones and for supplying safe fish to the people.

“At present, microplastics pollution in the sea has affected the marine resource in the sea. This situation can impact the fishery sector and tourism. Meanwhile, it is difficult to get export market for fish caught in the sea due to microplastics,” said the deputy minister.

The information collected during the survey would be useful for the ministry to raise awareness against plastic pollution in the effort to help plastic waste in Myanmar, he added.

The expedition team comprises six scientists from Norway, eight experts from the Fisheries Department, three faculty members from universities in Yangon, Myeik and Mawlamyine and a naval officer; the department said, adding that the fishery survey is planned to be conducted in the country’s waters and Exclusive Economic Zone.

They conducted two types of research measuring microplastics particles in the water and microplastics contamination in fish.

Microplastics are threaten-

ing the world, and this is the first time they have been measured and researched in Myanmar.

The ship, RV Dr. Fridtjof Nansen – which is named after a famous Norwegian explorer, diplomat, humanitarian and Nobel Peace Prize laureate – conducted a month-long study of fish resources and the marine ecosystem off Rakhine State and Ayeyarwady Region.

In the yesterday meeting, Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee’s report was discussed by MPs and representatives of the Tatmadaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw also approved the report of the Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Financial Development Affairs Committee.

In his conclusion speech to the Hluttaw, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat said in 17 days, a total of 127 asterisk marked questions were answered, a total 438 questions were answered. Nine proposals were submitted, three were approved and three were put on record. In the 10th regular session, Pyithu Hluttaw approved nine bills and one by-law.

In his remarks, the Speaker highlighted the role of the MPs in making laws at the parliament, stressing the need to welcome

any questions and proposals submitted by any party to the Hluttaw, saying that it is the duty of the MPs to amend the laws which should be amended and enacted as part of efforts for building a federal democratic country.

He also said that Pyithu Hluttaw welcomed the announcement of the Peace Commission on 12 December, 2018, saying that Pyithu Hluttaw hoped that armed conflicts and political problems would be solved through dialogue as soon as possible.

He also wished that those ethnic armed organizations who have not yet signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement would be signatories to the NCA.

Speaker U T Khun Myat also called for carrying out Public Democratic Participation with the strength of the people while keeping on watch and preventing possible hindrances to the democratic transition so that it can not deviate from its course. He also urged the MPs to help check and balance with the executive and judiciary sectors when they arrived back to their constituencies, stressing the importance of non interfering in other pillars of a democracy.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) and GNLM ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Amyotha Hluttaw

10th regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw concludes

By Aung Ye Thwin, Lu Maw (MNA)

THE tenth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 17th-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the session, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than explained about works conducted in the tenth regular session.

Question and Answer Session

During the Question and Answer session, U Pe Tin of Mon State constituency 6 asked the Union Government whether it plans to create good arrangements for Myanma Railway sector aiming to improve public facilities for the convenience of the passengers.

Regarding this query, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung replied that the ministry had laid



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

down one important point of 12 Transport Policies that included effective and efficient, cost-effective and modern transportation system. It was needed to be free and competitive market. The Government would have to create opportunities to have access to motorway, railway and air transport for the people so that

they could choose. Thus it would take time to accomplish these tasks and efforts are being made to make excellent, economical and effective investment.

Building a new lake in Chin State

U Shar Aww of Chin State constituency 3 asked the Union

Government if it plans to expand a lake in Tilak village, Haka Township, Chin State besides establishing a new lake in this area. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut replied that the Chin State government had permitted to use K 30 million from the border area development fund in the 2018-2019 FY, aiming to distribute water using a three-mile-long disbursement line in the region.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut replied the questions raised by Daw Shar Mu of Kayah State constituency 5, U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency 10, U Han Win Thein of Thaninthay Region constituency 4 and U Sai Pan Pha of Kayah State constituency 12.

Enrollment to discuss the industrial design copyright bill

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then announced for Hluttaw

representatives who wanted to discuss the industrial design copyright bill to enroll their names. This bill was submitted and approved by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

Reading a report on Cultural Heritage Conservation bill

Next Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Aung Kyi Nyunt read and clarified a report on a Cultural Heritage Conservation bill at the Hluttaw. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker approved the bill after obtaining a paragraph-by-paragraph decision.

Table a motion and seeking approval

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min tabled a motion to approve this bill with amendments, and U Mya Min Swe of Magway Region constituency 9 supported the motion.

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“ ‘Race’ is a collective noun applied to those who have lived through good times as well as bad together for long years, and who have accepted that they have a common destiny. It is a name given to a group of people who believe in their distinct, common identity. Although due consideration should be given to race, religion and language, a true patriotic spirit depends on a traditional desire to live together through weal or woe.”

(Excerpt from the speech given by General Aung San on the middle terrace of the Shwedagon Pagoda on 20th August, 1946)



Myanmar traditional Htamane festival in Tabodwe month. PHOTO: HTAY LWIN (AMARAPURA)

Speech delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at 'All Who Can Read Should Read' Campaign

WHEN Saya Dr. Pe Myint asked me to speak at this event, I took it that his aim was for me to ask all to read. It is because I cherish books and has a habit of reading actively. But I wonder whether these abilities are good enough to speak fully about the benefit of reading.

Yesterday evening Saya Pe Myint gave me an opportunity to have dinner and discuss with writers from all over the country. Even before attending the dinner, I was thinking why people write. I thought the writers will be able to answer this question so once I sat at the table I asked this question. Why do you write? Before I went there I found two reasons. One is to share your experience and feelings. The other is to influence others with your thoughts and ideas. To make people think like you do and to influence the thoughts. I thought these will be the only reasons and if others come up, it will come back to this two.

For example, in ordinary writing, we share our experience with our friends. Where we go, what we did etc. To make friends remain close and keep in touch. Sometimes we write so that other will think as we do. We want them to think in such a way for some reason. We want to influence them. I believe that basically there'll be these two reasons only.

I understand that the Sayas and Sayamas also agree in general with me. Maybe the writer wants to share or wants to influence. We also should think why people read. I understand this event is about aesthetic literature. Non-fiction is unavoidable as we need to read subjects that we study.

This is not only students but those who are already working also need to read non-fiction so that they can do their works properly. I don't think I'll need to explain further on this. As for aesthetic literature, except for some books that are specifically assigned at schools,



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the opening speech at "All Who Can Read Should Read" campaign in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

study or at work, we read those because of our hobby. I think this is a practice or a habit. This depends upon the surrounding, our family, our school, our teachers etc.

To be able to read and to want to read is a practice. However, even though the teachers teach in one way and families provide support and lead in a single way, all students, sons and daughters do not come out in one single format. All don't have an equal interest and hobbies. In general, in families where parents read, their offspring also read mostly. But their reading rates are not the same. The level of reverence they had on books is not the same. Some have high regards for books while some don't think too much about it. You'll notice the difference by simply looking at two kids reading a book. Some are deeply engrossed in the book. Their minds, hearts, everything is in the book.

Some read for a while and then look around here and

there. Looks as though they are wondering when they're going to finish the book or when the reading time will end. This is an ingrained habit that we couldn't change. But scientist said even DNA could change in a single life span. Depending upon our surrounding, our effort, we can change our habit. So we should not say that this habit couldn't be changed. This answer is not sufficient. If there is practice, we can change our habit.

Now we'll have to ask why we must work toward having a habit and a strong desire to read. I'll ask myself. Why do I cherish books? Why I'm enthusiastic to read? It is because it is beneficial for me. Acquiring knowledge is one thing. This is a practical thing.

However, when I read, I feel satisfied and happy. I felt like my world has become bigger. My world is not a world where I'm there alone. I felt as though it is a world where many people are also there. I'm interested in an incident that occurs quite recently when I met and discussed aesthetic literature with students from Yangon university. Some may remember this incident.

Many youths had read the Myanmar translation of "The Catcher in the Rye." When I mentioned that book, the first three youths were saying about their appreciation but the fourth or fifth youth said that he/she didn't like the book at all. Some in the audience cheered. I felt like breaking out into a laugh. The preceding persons were saying they like the book and then this one comes out to say he/she didn't like it so maybe this portion of the audience was applauding on the courage of this person who dares to come out against the mainstream thoughts. Maybe they themselves don't like it and did not dare to go against the mainstream opinions and then when there was someone who opposed the mainstream opinions they applauded. They all have the right not to like it.

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The benefit of reading is to know things that are different from us, our surroundings, our nature and our culture

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But I don't agree with the reason why that person didn't like the book. That person didn't like the book because it was not like their nature, surrounding or culture. The benefit of reading is to know things that are different from us, our surroundings, our nature and our culture. It is to know that not everyone thinks like us or do things as we do. In this world, there are many cultures, thoughts and traditions. They are not the same. We may like or not like things that are different from us. But not to like a book because it didn't reflect our surroundings, our nature, our culture etc. is a view that is not acceptable for me.

We want our youngsters to read. Reading will widen their world. As I said earlier, by reading, I widen my world. It is not about me that I know but I get to know how others know. It is not about how I felt but I get to know how others felt. These are what aesthetic literature gives you. That is why I read.

Sometimes, we read aesthetic literature because of the writing style. The way the writer is presenting his/her views, thoughts and feelings. We simply could not put down the book.

Sometime, the writing is not very good. But the theme is interesting. What will happen next? When I read a crime or detective stories, I try to think ahead and determine who the perpetrator or felon is and read on to confirm my thoughts. We sometimes read quickly because we want to know how it ends. This is one type. Sometimes we read a book because we got to know new things. The writing style may not be good. The story may not be good. But we got to know things that we didn't know. For example, when we read a book on a country that we didn't know, we get to know the culture, the history of that country and their views. This is somewhat close to non-fiction. The best is to have all three. The writing, the story, the knowledge or insights of a place/thing etc. as it will widen our world.

Recently under the arrangement of Saya Dr. Pe Myint I met with Myanmar Press Council members where I asked Sayagyi U Ohn Kyaing. What is news and what is it for? It is my habit to ask such questions. Since I was young, I asked elders what is it and what is it for? Why this happens? Why it was called as such? Why we must believe this etc?

I asked this to Sayagyi U Ohn Kyaing. We discussed and in the end he concluded and said that a news is true, beneficial, written in a way that is bearable for whom it was written about, with consideration given towards whether it should be written or not or is valuable. I agree with him. It is not only news but so is literature. But some will say how about contentious matters? Art is not about giving lessons or to make your surrounding or society better. It is not to make things better or worse.

This is not only students but those who are already working also need to read non-fiction so that they can do their works properly.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi writes on a slate as she visits the booths of the 'All Who Can Read Should Read Campaign at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

It is simply doing or saying things for the sake of doing or saying only as an art.

In that case there wouldn't be things like being true, beneficial, bearable, consideration, valuable etc. It is written because that is how the writer wants to write it or think that should be written. Some have this view. Aesthetic literature couldn't be taken as being true. Everyone knows about myths that are simply not realistic or true like flying horses. But if a story for children based on a flying horse make youngsters and children acquire the habit of reading, we could not say such a book is not good as it is beneficial.

There will be a lot to discuss on the bearable portion. Whether it is news or aesthetic literature is there a need to think if it is bearable or not? Who decides to write because it should be written and doesn't matter whether it is bearable or not? We don't know. From the side of the parents, scolding is something akin to teaching. We can say it is beneficial even though a bit unbearable.

On aesthetic literature I don't want to discuss along this line. We have different views. Whether it is beneficial or not? I have a duty to review whether it is beneficial to encourage reading. Some say reading good books is beneficial and reading bad books are not beneficial. But we know whether it is good or bad only when we read. The more we read, the more we know which book is good and which is not. Which is valuable and which is worthless. Without reading, we wouldn't know.

Some well-known writers read a book and write reviews about it. From these reviews, we'll be interested or not interested in the book. Here two people are not the same. In a book review, one will say it is good and another will say it is not good. In the end, we just have to read it and judge it by ourselves. So I couldn't say how valuable or useless reading a book is as it is something that a person should find it out themselves.

For me, it is valuable because it widens my world. It also strengthens my inner self. Reading greatly supports my development.

Nowadays we tell and urge youths not to use drugs.

It will destroy your life etc. Whether it is drug, liquor, cigarette or betel nut chewing, why I don't like those practices is that it is using outside matters to find your inner self. Everyone knows that an alcoholic likes it because it brings him/her happiness. Or he/she is unhappy, argued and fought with his/her parents. Some consume it to congratulate themselves on passing an examination. When there is a will to consume alcohol, there will be many reasons to do so. Cigarette is also the same. It is depending on an outside source for your inner self.

As we went through our political movement, many of our comrades were interned. During those times some were miserable because they were unable to have liquor, cigarette, betel nut. This is making up a misery. Why consume those things in the first place? Not good for health and extra expenses. Instead of smoking I told them why don't you just torch your money? It is the same. But it wouldn't damage your health. If a person buys a cigarette with money it is the same as burning the money. Worse is that it effects the health of that person as well as anyone nearby. This is what I don't like. It is depending on outside matters to rely on. Once addicted, it will affect you. Without it, you couldn't live.

A book addict will want to read books and will yearn for it if there were no books. But when they don't have books, they can think about the books that they had read and renew their strengths and spirits. But an addict to cigarette will not be satisfied thinking about the thousands they lighted up. They wouldn't be satisfied until they have a real cigarette. But a person who reads a lot and cherishes books always has a friend nearby. The books that person had read will be that person's friends for life. Not a simple friend but dependable friends. Friends who are always at your side saying do this and you'll get this. That is why I encourage reading. It is beneficial for you. You'll get knowledge. It will strengthen your resolves. Read appropriate books for you. As mentioned earlier, appropriateness is something that you'll have to find out by reading more.

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Good writing is important. But the thoughts in the book are something that will stay with you. It will influence your life

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Before this ability is obtained, teachers and parents must help the children. Make the children read books and as they come of age, they'll select books that are good for them. They'll know this book is good for me and this is not. They'll know which books, which authors are good through comparisons. At first it'll be under the guidance of the elders.

Later, they'll reach a stage where they can decide on their own. When they reach that stage they may not have the same views. This dissimilarity itself is the outcome of the dissimilarity of the books that are valuable for all. There are different views. The changes happen to you after reading a book. Some read a book for its story and didn't think much afterwards. But the main value of a book is the thought it gives. Good writing is important. But the thoughts in the book are something that will stay with you. It will influence your life. Some writers aim for this alone. As I said earlier, writing is to share. It is to influence others. This exists in both aesthetic literature and non-fiction. I'm now talking about aesthetic literature.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that parents need to



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a documentary photo together with attendees at the All Who Can Read Should Read Campaign at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

encourage their children to read since they are young. Also make a habit of discussing about the things read. The reading circles that we are conducting are just this. We review and discuss the books that we read and have a cultured discussion on differing views.

It is not having a thought that a person is an enemy because of difference. When five children read a book and have five different views, they'll have an understanding that they are not the same and being different doesn't mean one is good, one is bad. Combining all the thoughts will make them see things in a bigger way. This

is why we encourage reading.

That is why we are supporting and encouraging libraries. This is the aim of the mobile library of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. I believe that our people are not reading because they don't want to. They are not reading because they don't have books or opportunity to read it. It is with this belief that the mobile library was started. Some don't agree but it is very effective.

We must be respectful in establishing libraries. In some libraries, there are some old books or torn magazines or school books that no one wants. As it took up space in

their homes, these were donated to the library but who will read it? This will not encourage reading.

In the mobile library, we stock it up with books that children would like to read. Just by looking at the book cover will entice the youngsters to open it up and read it. We are doing it in such a way.

If the love for a book is instilled in a person since young, they'll read for life benefiting them as well as their surroundings. Make reading a habit. It is better than smoking a cigarette. Smoking a cigarette is burning it. Reading a book is keeping something for life.

Instead of spending money on cigarette and liquors, spend it on books. Donate it. If you no longer have the time or want to read it anymore, you can donate it to libraries. Do not donate books that you don't want or want to throw away. Donation is not a good donation if the main aim was to clear your house of things that you don't want. I'd like to conclude by asking for help and support in urging and encouraging youngsters to cherish books, to read and instill the habit of reading. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, wife attend pre-Christmas prayer and friendship dinner

A pre-Christmas prayer and friendship dinner organized by the Nay Pyi Taw Council of Churches was held at the Myanmar Baptists Convention in Shwechi Ward, Pyinmana Town, Nay Pyi Taw Council area yesterday evening.

The event was attended by Nay Pyi Taw Council of Churches Chairman and Reverends, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat's wife Daw Yin May, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, departmental officials and Nay Pyi Taw Council of Churches members.

As per the schedule Rev. U Yun Mhone delivered an opening

prayer and Nay Pyi Taw Council of Churches Chairman Rev. Dr. U Tin Maung Aye delivered Christmas greetings.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko addressed the event.

Afterwards Rev. U Cham Khaw of the Kachin Baptist Convention and Rev. Timothy Pa Hrang of the Chin Baptist Convention (Nay Pyi Taw) delivered a sermon and prayer.

Next, Nay Pyi Taw Council of Churches secretary Rev. U Saw Hsa Mae La delivered a message of thanks.

Following the speeches, sermons and prayers, pre-Christmas hymns were sung and Nay Pyi Taw Council of Churches members, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and attendees ex-



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife pose for a photo at pre-Christmas prayer and friendship dinner in Nay Pyi Taw Council area yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

changed Christmas gifts and posed for commemorative group photos.

Later, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and wife attended the friendship dinner held at the

Myanmar Baptist Convention Maykha Hall. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

'All Who Can Read Should Read' campaign held in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivered a message of greetings at the 'All Who Can Read Should Read' campaign held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his message of greetings Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said the campaign was held with an aim of appreciating and valuing literature, strengthening the appreciation of literature, permeating the thought of cherishing literature to old and young alike throughout the country.

To say it more accurately, the aim of "All Who Can Read Should Read" campaign is to develop the wisdom of the people. It is accepted by everyone that reading brought prosperity to nationals who read. In other words people of developed countries read a lot.

If the number of people with knowledge and wisdom increases, that country will be ahead of other countries. The 'All Who Can Read Should Read' campaign is held to have more people with knowledge and wisdom in our country.

I want our people to read. People are categorized according to their ages. They are the age of learning, the age of working and the age of retirement. The age of learning includes all children and youths. The age of working includes all youths, middle-aged and old-aged persons who can work. Age of retirement is retiree who no longer works who had free time and extra times while being healthy.

We need to think of what sort of books we should read. We need to think what sort of books we should produce for those who read.

Children literature festivals were held to make children read and develop children literature

Reading is important in learning and only through reading non-fiction and aesthetic literature can there be life-long learning.



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint presents Innovative Library Award to representative of community-based center from Kayin State at 'All Who Can Read Should Read' campaign in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi presents Innovative Library Award to representative of community-based center from Yangon Region at 'All Who Can Read Should Read' campaign in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung and Mr. Vikram Sinha sign MoU in the presence of Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun at 'All Who Can Read Should Read' campaign in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

and it had reached a certain level of success and effectiveness. Thanks a lot to children literature writers and producers. More thinking is required toward reaching more wider and complete quality. In addition to children literature translation, encouragement must be made toward creating better children literature. Only then will there be an increase in new and innovative children literature.

Human resources development needs to be conducted for our country to be on par with the world and to develop. It is believed that reading plays an important role toward human resources development. For this to happen, it couldn't be done by a single person, group or entity. It is believed that all who are interested in intellectual matters and who cherish their country need to cooperate and participate. Those who are working with books and literature, publishers, distributors, library personnel, children, writers, anyone who are related to books and knowledge are

urged to participate in the best they can said the Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint.

Next, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said it is the duty and responsibility of the teachers, and head masters/mistresses of Ministry of Education, teachers from private schools, parents, guardians and the people to create learned person from the "All who can read should read" campaign. It is important to nurture, teach and train so that there will be learned person.

Reading is important in learning and only through reading non-fiction and aesthetic literature can there be life-long learning. Schools and teachers are responsible toward raising the ability to read. Reading places like school library, community-based libraries, ward libraries to National Libraries plays a role in supporting and encouraging reading.

As it is important to encourage the habit of reading at the primary level, arrangements were

made to expand the opening of primary school libraries. It will be conducted in cooperation with Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.

It is important to say let us read. Libraries in basic education schools, universities and wards are to be supported. Libraries play a key role toward instilling the practice of reading. As such all need to participate, support and cooperate toward establishment of libraries that the people will cherish and utilize said the Union Minister for Education.

Next, Dr. Pe Myint and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi presented Innovative Library Award to representatives of community-based centers in Myitkyina District, Hpa-An District, Natmauk Township and public libraries in MraukU District, Sangyoung Township and Nyaungshwe Township.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun presented Innovative Library Award to representatives of Amyinthat library, Tun Tauk Yaungchi library, Dhamma Joti

e-library, Shwe Nya Myay library, Mya Thein Tan library, Yangon North district (Insein) Daw Khin Kyi Foundation mobile library, Kawhmu Daw Khin Kyi Foundation mobile library, Pyinnya Parami library, Kanbawza Youth library and Dawei Millennium Centre.

After the award presentation a librarian delivered a message of thanks on behalf of the award winners.

Later, a signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support sustainable existence of libraries between Ooredoo Myanmar and Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation (MBAPF) was held where Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivered a message of appreciation.

This was followed by MBAPF Executive Director Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung and Ooredoo Myanmar Company CEO Mr. Vikram Sinha explaining about the MoU.

The MoU was then signed and exchanged in the presence of Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun by Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung and Mr. Vikram Sinha.

After the signing of the MoU Ooredoo Myanmar Company CEO Mr. Vikram Sinha presented cash donation for 'All Who Can Read Should Read' campaign to Information and Public Relations Department Director General U Ye Naing and Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung presented gifts to Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and Mr. Vikram Sinha.

Finally, discussions were held under various titles and themes. The "All Who Can Read Should Read" campaign will continue on 21 December.— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

KfW provides 5 mln EUR grant funds for Improvement of Agricultural Transport Infrastructure

DIRECTOR General U Khin Thet, Ministry of Construction and Ms. Eva Schneider, KfW Country Director to Myanmar signed the Financing and Separate Agreements for the Improvement of Agricultural Transport Infrastructure (IATI Programme). The signing ceremony was witnessed by U Han Zaw, Union Minister for the Construction.

Germany is the first partner of Myanmar to support a programme of rural roads construction. So far, the German Government has supported Myanmar with EUR 47 million grant funds to develop rural areas by upgrading and constructing rural roads and bridges. In addition



Union Minister U Han Zaw, KfW Country Director Ms. Eva Schneider and officials pose for the documentary photo at the signing ceremony between Ministry of Construction and KfW, the German Development Bank in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

to that German Government has committed EUR 5 million for the

improvement of the agricultural sector. At the occasion of the

Agreements' signing Ms. Eva Schneider, Country Director of

KfW Office Yangon, emphasized in her speech: "By making roads and bridges accessible all year long, the population living close to the roads can travel faster and easily to markets to sell their agricultural products. Their income will be rising and the living conditions will improve significantly" The programme will be implemented within the framework of German Financial Cooperation via KfW Development Bank by the Department of Rural Roads Development (DRRD) of the Ministry of Construction. The programme comprises upgrading of the rural roads for the improvement of agricultural products in Southern Shan State.—GNLM ■

Chin State Investment Forum 2019 to be held in March

AN INVESTMENT forum will be organized at the MCC in Yangon Region on 16 March to promote local and foreign investments in Chin State, said Dr. Min Zaw Oo, the director of Chin State's Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

"The purpose of the Chin State Investment Forum 2019 is to invite local and foreign investors to the state. Local and foreign enterprises will invest in

the state through such forums. Diplomatic staff from embassies will also attend the event. At the forum, visitors will get a chance to observe the investment climate in Chin State so they can decide on investing in the state," said Dr. Min Zaw Oo.

Local entrepreneurs will also get to display local products from the state at the forum.

"There are many products made locally in Chin State such as coffee, Mythun (Bos Frontalis,

locally called Nwar Nauk, avocado and elephant foot-yam. We will invite local entrepreneurs to display these products," he said.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, Chin State did not see any local or foreign investment. In the six-month interim period prior to the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the authorities granted permission to Mercy Per Company to invest in the hotel industry in the state with a capital of K833.42 million. The company is the first local

firm to invest in Chin State, according to statistics from the DICA.

The Development Affairs, Electricity, and Industry Minister has made a draft "Framework to Attract Investment to Chin State", under the guidance of the Chin State Chief Minister. The most promising areas for large investments in the state are hydropower production, hotels and tourism industry, small and medium-sized enterprises,

and urban development.

"The government is encouraging investments in Chin State. But, we need to improve the road accessibility and electric power supply in the state," said Dr. Min Zaw Oo.

Currently, the DICA is conducting investment forums in collaboration with regional and state governments to get local and foreign investors to invest in the country.—Nyein Nyein ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar-China trade shows slight increase in Oct, touches \$800 mln

TRADE between Myanmar and China reached almost US\$800 million in the first month of the fiscal year 2018-2019, registering a slight increase of \$17 million compared with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The bilateral trade figure includes \$299.5 million in exports and \$500.3 million in imports.

During this period last year, Myanmar-China trade totalled \$782.8 million, with exports of \$346.6 million and imports of \$436.2 million.

Compared with last year, bilateral exports decreased by \$47 million this year, while imports rose by \$64 million.

Myanmar's exports to China, its largest neighbouring

country and top trade partner, mainly include agriculture, marine, and forest products. The country imports medicines and related equipment, consumer goods, electronic appliances, food and beverages, cosmetics, and other commodities from China.

Sino-Myanmar trade is conducted not only through sea routes but also through border trade camps. There are five major border trade gates between the two countries - Muse, Lwe-jel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpiketee, and Kengtung.

Bilateral trade between the countries was valued at \$5 billion in the 2011-2012 FY. It decreased to \$4.957 billion in the following FY. Trade between the two nations increased to \$7 billion in

the 2013-2014 FY and \$9.7 billion in the 2014-2015 FY. Sino-Myanmar trade exceeded \$10 billion in the 2015-2016 and the 2016-2017 financial years.

During the mini-budget period between April and September this year, bilateral trade between China and Myanmar totalled over \$5.5 billion.

China's investments in Myanmar totalled \$1.39 billion in the 2017-2018 FY. The Myanmar Investment Commission approved new investments from China to the tune of over \$2 million in October this year. During the last mini-budget period, China's investments in Myanmar totalled \$304.7 million.—Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Private sector CMP imports increase 34.8 % in current fiscal year

PRIVATE sector CMP imports in the first two months of the 2018-2019 financial year have touched nearly US\$420 million, an increase of over \$100 million, or 34.8 per cent, compared with the same period of last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period last year, Myanmar's private sector CMP imports totalled \$310.7 million. In the first week of December, the country's CMP imports stood at \$44.8 million.

Between 1 October and 7 December this year, Myanmar imported other groups of commodities, including capital goods worth \$1.123 billion, intermediate goods worth \$1.256 billion,

and consumer products worth \$634 million.

However, private sector imports have registered a decline this year. Apart from CMP, private sector imports of capital goods, intermediate goods, and consumer goods have decreased by \$58.6 million from last year.

During the current fiscal year, the country has imported goods worth \$2.9 billion through the maritime routes and goods amounting to over \$500 million through the border trade stations. The country's total imports have increased by over \$80 million from the same period last year.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

People must work together to enjoy the fruits of independence

THE people of Myanmar lived together in unity and enjoyed much prosperity for millennia before colonial rule. Our country was colonized in the late 19th century after three Anglo-Myanmar wars. Bogoyoke Aung San and other leaders instilled a strong national spirit among the people, who fought long and hard for our independence.

On the 4th of January, 1948, Myanmar regained her independence and sovereignty. This January, our country will observe her 71st Independence Day. Our people struggled for independence

to ensure justice, equality, and peace envisaged by our national leaders. But do these virtues prevail in our country today?

Since our independence, we have lost much momentum due to internal strife. Because there was no peace, there was no stability, and we lagged in many areas of development.

Today, we are building a Democratic Federal Union as per the wishes of the people. The Union Government elected by the people is implementing the transition towards a democratic system of government. People play an important role in the creation and growth of a democracy. Therefore, they need to learn the essence and practices of a democracy.

The Union Government, while working to ensure proper balance between the three pillars of government, is trying to build a country where all citizens enjoy freedom, equality, and justice. People must enjoy the justice and equal rights accorded to them by law.

Our ethnic brethren must join together and work to ensure peace in the country. The Union Government, on its part, is making strenuous efforts to achieve peace.

After independence, there were several conflicts among the nation's races, which posed obstacles to the development of the state.

It was also tragic to see people in some regions not fully enjoying the fruits of independence as their future was overwhelmed by violence.

Therefore, it is important for all our people to participate in the sessions of the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference which aims to find solutions to our political problems through dialogue.

Now is the time to show the world that we deserve our independence by putting an end to internal conflicts. All our ethnic brethren must work together for the cessation of conflicts and for achieving long-lasting peace, so as to enjoy equal rights, freedom, justice, and peace.

It was also tragic to see people in some regions not fully enjoying the fruits of independence as their future was overwhelmed by violence.

READING AND I

(Hailing the "All Who Can Read Should Read" campaign)

By Maung Hlaing

“THE main aims of the ‘All Who Can Read Should Read’ campaign is to encourage and stimulate the development of reading among all people in Myanmar who can read, and to continue and extend the campaign to cover the entire country.”

Deputy Minister for Information Ministry U Aung Hla Tun said so at a press conference held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw on 15 December, 2018. What he said reminded me of our childhood days while we were pursuing monastic education.

At that time, it was in the monasteries that young boys and even girls learned their lessons that had been meant not only to enable them to be literate or to earn their living but to be more interested in the religious teachings of the Buddha. We were taught Three R's (Reading, Writing and Reckoning) by learned monks who were well-versed in Buddhist literature including the treatises on Buddhist Philosophy. Thanks to the monks, we could read Jataka stories, or Buddha's Life stories (life stories of previous incarnations of Buddha), tales on religious texts and so on.

The remarkable thing the monks did was “holding a reading competition” for students. We the students competed with each other in reading of reciting the texts we had learned by heart. In this way, they could instil a good habit of reading in all the students. Despite the lack of (modern) formal education, the monastic education system inspired our enthusiasm to read a lot.

As a result, while we were reading at college, we the students were competing with each other in reading books of the college (Workers' College) library. We had to renew our borrower's cards given by the library over and over again and the renewal made us take pride in reading.

Although a huge influx of reading materials did not come out in those days, we had to be satisfied with some dailies and periodicals we read every day. Compared to our childhood days, children and youths of today are so lucky that they can have easy access to all kinds of reading materials ranging from ordinary books to e-books on various subjects.

Not only Myanmar but also developing and even developed nations are now facing the chal-



PHOTO: NYIZAW MOE

lenges of the people who do not read although they know how to read or even they are educated.

May I quote the message sent by the United Nations Secretary-General on International Literacy Day (2013). In the message, the Secretary-General said, “More than 773 million young people and adults around the world cannot read this message. They are among the ranks of our fellow citizens who have not yet gained full literacy skills...” He means that over 773 million people cannot read his message because they are illiterate. I would like to add a few words to his remarks by saying “Those who do not read are not only the illiterates but also neoliteates and even the educated.”

That is why, literacy movements are being waged on the one hand and reading campaigns like ‘All Who Can Read Should Read’ campaigns are being launched on the other hand.

To my opinion, to launch reading campaigns and to instil a habit of reading, or a good hobby of reading in students solely depends on the endeavours made by school teachers today. It is the teachers that are responsible for teaching and imparting knowledge on both school texts and ways of living of their students.

When I was a highschool student, our teachers taught us how to use library even it was the time when we had a poor chance to have an access to libraries. Thanks to their instructions and advice, we

came to know the value of school library and enjoyed ourselves in a single library called Information Reading centre opened by the Ministry of Information in our town. Besides, our teachers guided us to write articles and poems in school magazines and wall-mounted magazines.

As the books hardly reached our small town, we usually relied on the school library. Sometimes, when our class-teacher bought a good book, he brought it to the

While paperback books dominated the publishing market, new colour printing techniques enable publishers to produce beautifully illustrated books inexpensively.

New types of books including talking books, which are records or tapes of books that read aloud are created for those who cannot read, young children and the blind. Moreover, people can now have an easy access to e-books and the Internet users are on the increase day by day. In the 1970s, the use of computers

“...I was not surprised when my teacher late U Po Kyaw Myint (Myansar Gon Kyaw Myint) said, people who don't have a taste for reading are to be pitied as they miss out one of the purest pleasures of life.”

class and made us read. After going through the whole book, we had to tell him about our views or ideas and comments on that book. Such a good practice made us take interest in books and reading. Only when this practice is kept alive and dynamic, will the future of our nation be brighter.

If we looked at the world today, we will find that in one language only, thousands and thousands of new books are published in a month, and millions in a year. Please, try to imagine the number in all the languages in the world.

to aid in the type-setting process became more and more common. In the decades that followed, the printing and binding process became increasingly automated.

A major development in the late 20th century was print on demand. By using powerful computers from companies store digitized versions of books. When needed, they use advanced printers and binding techniques to run off as many books as required. Printing only as many books as needed allows companies to save money, and being able to store book

digitally means that books can be printed whenever necessary.

Sometime about seven years ago, I came across a news item under the title of “A book a day helps keep doctors away” that appeared in the New Light of Myanmar (12 May, 2011). According to the news, new retirees suddenly confronted with plenty of time on their hands might be happy to learn that reading keeps on mentally alert. Growing old can present difficulties such as failing eyesight or problems concentrating, but experts encourage the elderly not to give up on reading and to adept to their situation. From the perspective of health professionals, there are many advantage in reading books or newspapers for senior citizens.

Normally, service personnel may feel very happy on the day on which they begin to enjoy their retirement. However, as they grow older and older, they gradually come to feel lonely and need something that cannot be expressed. As for a senior citizen, he should employ his mind and body sensibly and intelligently during his spare time so that idleness may not grow upon him and rust his mind.

We can go in for meditating, gardening, spending time with grand children and etc. But now, researchers find that the best way to enjoy a retired life is READING.

Manfred Gogol, a physician and president of Germany's Society for Gerontology and Geriatrics says that the brain builds new synapses, junctions between the neurons,

when it is stimulated during reading. Gogol also recommends reading books that deal with subjects that are of special interest to the reader. If a long novel seems like too much work, then try a novella or collection of short stories.

As a matter of fact, those who do not read books may lost two things—pleasure and knowledge given by books. I was not surprised when my teacher late U Po Kyaw Myint (Myansar Gon Kyaw Myint) said, people who don't have a taste for reading are to be pitied as they miss out one of the purest pleasures of life.”

Our modern world is changing at an enormous rate. No one can deny this. With the help of computers, Internet and the information super highway, almost everyone can have easy access to social media. I do not want to put the blame on those who are deeply engaged in using social media but I would like to call on them to turn to books.

Due to new communication technologies, the globalization process is picking up. But please have a look at the peoples of other lands. Although they are using their hand phones to visit the social media, they never fail to read books. That is why, millions and millions of books in various languages are coming out.

Peoples of the world nations are reading hard and working hard to be able to keep pace with the trend of international development to promote national interests.

Reading helps broaden the horizons of the people and enables them to distinguish between the good and the bad. In the ‘Knowledge Age’, competition for prosperity becomes intense more than ever. If one fails to read (books), one will surely lag behind others who read more.

Indeed, holding ‘All Who Can Read Should Read’ campaign means that we are launching a ‘Social Revolution’.

While the people of the world nations are reading, should we waste time, toiling with the mobile phones?

The message I would like to leave is—“Read and Read and Read and Read...”

The motto ‘Books for All’ will ring true till doomsday!

Ref:
1. The New Light of Myanmar, 12-5-2011
2. The Global New Light of Myanmar, 16-12-2018

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of service organizations appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

| Name | Appointment |
|---|--|
| (1) U Kyaw Swe Lin | Director-General |
| Deputy Director-General | Department of Planning |
| Department of Planning | Ministry of Agriculture, |
| Ministry of Agriculture, | Livestock and Irrigation |
| Livestock and Irrigation | |
| (2) Dr. L Tu Meang Gaung | Director-General |
| Deputy Director-General | Department of Protecting Ethnic Rights |
| Department for Protecting Ethnic Rights | Ministry of Ethnic Affairs |
| Ministry of Ethnic Affairs | |



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Thursday 20 December 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30

hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, scattered in Magway Region and Kachin State, fairly widespread in Eastern Shan, Chin and Rakhine states and widespread in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Sagaing and Magway regions, Kayin and Mon states, (5°C) to (6°C) above December average temperatures in Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady regions, Kachin, Northern Shan, Rakhine and Kayah states, (7°C) above December average temperatures in (Eastern & Southern) Shan State and about December average temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (4°C) in Haka, Ramthlo (7°C), Tiddim and Tonzang (8°C) each and (9°C) in Falam. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (Zeyathiri) (1.18) inches, Nay Pyi Taw (Ottarathiri) (1.02) inches, Nay Pyi Taw (Zabuthiri) and Nay Pyi Taw (Pobbathiri) (0.87) inch each, Nay Pyi Taw (Dekkhinathiri) and Pyin Oo Lwin (0.82) inch each, Hsipaw (0.79) inch and Mogok (0.67) inch.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 21 December 2018: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, Northern Shan and Chin states. Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Region, Kachin, Kayin and Mon states and scattered in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Northern Shan and Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 December 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 December 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 December 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Cooperative fishing with Ayeyawady dolphins attracts local, foreign visitors

OVER 300 local and foreign visitors have come to watch the Ayeyawady Dolphins helping fishermen catch fish since October this year, said U Maung Lay, the leader of the Ayeyawady Dolphins Conservation and Cooperative Fishermen Team.

"This year, the number of visitors interested in observing cooperative fishing with the assistance of the dolphins has significantly increased. We have had several local visitors, too. Today, we demonstrated cooperative fishing with the dolphins to three Japanese and 22 local visitors. We have not been able to estimate the exact number of visitors because some tour groups have already registered to visit the area as of January," he added.

"A total of 319 visitors including 143 foreigners and 176 locals observed demonstrations of fishing with dol-



Tourists watch cooperative fishing with Ayeyawady Dolphins in the Ayeyawady River in Mandalay. **PHOTO: KHINE SET WAI**

phins between 1 October and 17 December. We have also registered some groups, including 10 overnight tours and 7-day return tours, as of 2 January, 2019," U Maung Lay said.

"Demonstrations of fishing

with dolphins are helping attract tourists interested in natural fishing. But there have been some cases where dolphins have died because of fishing methods involving electric shocks and nets. These days, we are taking

greater care to keep the dolphins safe as the water level in the Ayeyawady river has decreased," he added.

"A demonstration of fishing with dolphins can fetch K40,000. Fishermen who participate in the demonstration share the money," he said. The Fisheries Department has been conducting joint patrols with the marine police and local administrators to prevent illegal fishing to conserve the Ayeyawady dolphins.

The Ayeyawady dolphins conservation team has seized 28 illegal fishing vessels between 2017 and November 2018. The team has also conducted awareness campaigns in nearly 100 villages. The team announced the second Ayeyawady dolphin protection area on the Htigyaing-Katha-Shwegu stretch of the Ayeyawady River in August this year.— Khine Set Wai

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Project to boost farm income to be launched in Thaphanseik Dam irrigable land in Shwebo District

A PROJECT to raise agricultural incomes will be implemented in the Thaphanseik Dam's irrigable land in Shwebo District in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), said U Khin Maung Nyunt, the head of the Sagaing Region's Agriculture Department.

"The project will help create job opportunities for around 300,000 people from 70,000 households living in the area. It will be implemented at a cost of K6,541.9

million, funded by an Official Development Assistance loan secured for a 30-year period at an interest of 0.01 per cent," said U Khin Maung Nyunt.

The project will be implemented in nine townships in three districts. It will cover Shwebo, Wetlet, KhinU, YeU, Tantze, and Depaiyin townships in Shwebo District, Budalin and Ayadaw townships in Monywa District, and Kanbalu township in Kanbalu District. "The project will mainly promote agriculture

awareness. A technology sharing center and township offices will be constructed and market promotion will be conducted under the project," said U Myint Oo, the director of the Agriculture Department.

Under the project, about 31 new education centers will be constructed in Shwebo, Wetlet, Khin U, Ye U, Tantze, Depaiyin, Budalin, Ayadaw, and Kanbalu townships with funds of K1310.400 million from the 2018-2019 fiscal year, he said.

Moreover, funds of K 479.457 million from the government's budget will be utilized to provide the necessary facilities for the agricultural awareness department's branch office, he added.

Although the Shwebo district is known for its high-quality rice, Shwebo Pawsan, it accounts for only 58 per cent of the summer paddy crop because the irrigation water supply is not enough for cultivation.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Authorities destroy 43 acres of opium fields in Shan State

AUTHORITIES destroyed 43 acres of opium fields in three townships of Shan State on 19 December.

A combined team comprising members of the township police destroyed 27 acres of opium crops in Hopong Township, 10 acres in Pinsone Village in Pinlaung Township, and about 6 acres in Htiohnsout Village in Hsihseng Township.

The operation was part

of the government's efforts to stem opium production in the country. The police, administrative officials, responsible officials, and the people are working together to put an end to opium cultivation in Myanmar.

The combined team plans to continue its campaign in opium poppy-growing areas.—GNLM

(Translated by
Khaing Thanda Lwin)

One dead, another injured in road accident in Nay Pyi Taw

A MAN was killed after his car was rammed by another car from behind on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, early on Thursday morning, said police. A passenger travelling with him was also injured in the accident.

Aye Ko Soe, 40, was driving a Honda Fit between mile posts 196/7 and 197/0 on the expressway around 3:30 am on 20 December, when an unidentified driver crashed into his car from

the rear. Aye Ko Soe was killed, while a passenger travelling with him, identified as Daw Aye Aye Aung, 35, was injured in the accident. She was taken to the nearest hospital for treatment.

Police have filed a case under Sections 304 (a), 337, and 302 of the Penal Code and are continuing their investigations to nab the unidentified driver.—GNLM

(Translated by
Khaing Thanda Lwin)

10th regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw concludes

FROM PAGE-2

Amyotha Hluttaw announced the Hluttaw's agreement and approved of the bill after obtaining the decisions of the Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker summarizes Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session

After this, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than delivered a concluding speech. He said 17 days of meetings were held where 105 asterisk-marked questions and 102 non-asterisk marked questions were asked and answered.

Taking effective legal action against the wildlife trafficking

Daw Thiri Yadana of Mon State constituency 12 tabled a motion to take effective legal action against the wildlife trafficking and the Hluttaw approved of it.

Cultural Heritage Conservation bill

The Amyotha Hluttaw had submitted the Cultural Heritage Conservation bill to the Pyithu Hluttaw after obtaining the approval from the Amyotha Hluttaw. Reading a paper on the Myanmar Telecommunication Corporation bill

During the Hluttaw sessions, the Myanmar Telecommunication Corporation bill was submitted and Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee read out this report.

Submitting bills and laws

The Amyotha Hluttaw had submitted the Myanmar Gemstone Law 2017, Literature and art copyright bill and the second amendment to the settlement of Labour disputes law to the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The Amyotha Hluttaw had approved the amendments of the Myanmar Accountancy

Council Law in accordance with amendments made by the Pyithu Hluttaw. The Amyotha Hluttaw had announced for the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the Patent bill, Copyright bill and the industrial design copyright bill at the Hluttaw besides submitting the 2018 Gambling bill, the health and occupational safety bill and the Consumer Protection bill to the Pyithu Hluttaw. Moreover the second amendment of Penal law and the Bar Council Act were submitted to the Pyithu Hluttaw.

A total of 93 meetings were held

During the Hluttaw session, Amyotha Hluttaw conducted a total of 93 meetings, including 19 Bill Committee meetings, 5 Public Accounts Committee meetings, 1 Hluttaw Rights Committee meeting, 11 Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Under-

takings Vetting Committee meetings, 2 International Relations, Inter-Parliamentary Friendship and Cooperation Committee meetings, 4 INGOs and NGOs Affairs Committee meetings, 5 Health, Sports and Cultural Committees meetings, 4 Ethnic Affairs Committee meetings, 4 Farmer Affairs Committee meetings, 7 Women and Children's Rights Committee meetings, 6 Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee meetings, 6 Worker Affairs Committee meetings, 5 Citizen's Fundamental Rights, the Democracy and Human Rights Committee meetings, 6 Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee meetings, 3 Public Complaints Committees meetings, 2 Agriculture, livestock breeding and fishery development committee meetings and 3 construction, industry, electricity and energy affairs committee meetings were

held.

Two debates, 2 short papers, 67 matters responded

While the Hluttaw was in session, Amyotha Hluttaw conducted two debates where Hluttaw representatives participated in it, while research, public and international relations department had published 2 short papers, responding to 67 matters raised by 67 Hluttaw representatives, with only 10 matters left to be responded.

After wishing the Hluttaw representatives a pleasant journey back to their constituencies and to serve their constituents, people, region and the country increasingly, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the successful conclusion of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session.■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Coord meeting to raise reading rate of public held in Nay Pyi Taw

A coordination meeting to raise the reading rate of the public was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, state/region social affairs ministers, departmental officials, Executive Director of Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation (MBAPF) Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung and Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Libraries Foundation U Nyunt Swe.

At the meeting Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said the Min-

istry of Information is carrying out releasing information and educating the people, considering that dissemination of knowledge and information is vital because knowledge-based countries are developed.

That is why based on the basic education level schools children literature festivals were held and based on the university level all-round youth development festivals were held. Township and District information and public relations offices and libraries were being upgraded to people-based community centres and in cooperation with Daw Khin Kyi Foundation computer



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivers the speech at coord meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

courses as well as mobile libraries were conducted to increase the reading rate.

He also stressed the need to arrange suitable mobile libraries in regions and states.

In the past this was done

on bicycles. In cooperation with Shanti volunteer group, motorized tricycles are used as mobile library in Bago Region. In foreign countries, this is done using boats and elephants. States and Regions should use appropriate

ways to cooperate and participate in this drive, said the Union Minister. State/Region social ministers, officials from groups and entities then participated in the discussion.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Myanmar, China hold 4th (2+2) High-Level Consultations

THE Fourth Round of Myanmar and China (2+2) High-Level Consultations led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defence was held on 18th December 2018 at Zhong Wei Kunming Green Lake Hotel in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. The meeting was attended by the Myanmar Delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation and Lt. Gen. Tun Tun Naung, Ministry of Defence and the Chinese Delegation was led by Mr. Kong Xuanyou, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Lt. Gen. Shao Yuanming, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views in a



High-ranking officials from Myanmar and Chinese Foreign Affairs and Defence ministries discuss matters relating to the two countries' borders at the 4th (2+2) High-Level Consultations in Kunming. PHOTO: MNA

friendly and cordial atmosphere on border related issues focusing on China's constructive support for the peace process of Myanmar, promoting rule of law, peace

and stability along Myanmar-China border, stabilization of the situation of Northern Myanmar, confidence-building measures and development of border are-

as to promote the interests of the population in those areas.

Moreover, the two sides agreed among others to step up collaboration and coordination through bilateral mechanisms and cooperation at different levels in various areas such as Myanmar-China border management, combating narcotic drugs, human trafficking and preventing illegal entries and illegal trade, to adhere to the Boundary Treaty in construction of structures, fences, retaining walls and river banks maintenance works to prevent erosion of river banks and cooperation on the matters pertaining to resolving boundary issues through joint inspection.

On 18th December 2018,

Myanmar Delegation led by the Union Minister attended the dinner hosted by Mr. Zhang Guohua, Vice Governor of Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China. The (2+2) High-Level Consultations Meeting led by Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence at the central level was established aiming at intensifying and consolidating cooperation in security and management in the Myanmar-China border areas more effectively. The 3rd Myanmar and China (2+2) High-Level Consultations led by Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence was previously held on 17th January 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA ■

China detains third Canadian as Huawei spat simmers

OTTAWA (Canada) — China has arrested a third Canadian national, Ottawa said Wednesday — a move that comes amid an already tense diplomatic spat with Beijing over the arrest of a Chinese telecom executive.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau however emphasized that the arrest did not seem to be linked to a former diplomat and an entrepreneur held for allegedly endangering China's national security.

"We are looking into the details (but) this most recent one doesn't seem to fit the pattern set by the previous two," Trudeau told a press conference.

Earlier, foreign ministry spokeswoman Maegan Graveline said the government was "aware" of another Canadian citizen being detained in China, without providing further details. The citizen has not been identified. Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular press briefing that she had "not heard" about the detention, first reported by Canada's



Former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig, seen here, is one of three Canadians who have been arrested in China — Kovrig was working for the International Crisis Group think tank. **PHOTO: AFP**

daily *National Post*. All three arrests follow the detention of Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou on 1 December in Vancouver on a US request. Meng was released on bail last week pending a US extradition hearing on US fraud charges related to sanctions-breaking business dealings with Iran.

China detained former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and China-based business consultant Michael Spavor on 10 December. No link has officially been made between

the cases, but suspicions are mounting that China is holding at least two of the Canadian nationals in retaliation. Kovrig took an unpaid leave from his diplomatic post last year to work as a Hong Kong-based senior advisor at the International Crisis Group think tank, while Spavor facilitates trips to North Korea, including visits by former NBA star Dennis Rodman.

Collateral damage

Beijing threatened Canada with "grave conse-

quences" if Meng was not freed and Chinese state-run media lashed out at the arrest, saying it was politically motivated.

Ottawa has repeatedly said Meng's arrest was not political but rather part of a judicial process in keeping with an extradition treaty with Washington.

Canadian officials have been granted consular access to both Kovrig and Spavor.

But Trudeau told Toronto's Citytv last week that Ottawa was still "trying to figure out why, (and) trying to work with China to demonstrate that this not acceptable."

Pressed at his end-of-year press conference Wednesday to explain why he had not personally intervened in the case, for example, by calling China's President Xi Jinping, Trudeau said: "Political posturing or political statements aren't necessarily going to contribute, (and) in some cases they might actually hinder efforts to secure Canadians' release."

Bob Rae, who briefly

led Canada's Liberal Party (2011-2013) before handing the reins to Trudeau, urged the government to develop a "robust, principled and effective response" to Beijing's actions.

"This looks too much like hostage taking," he said on Twitter. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, meanwhile, branded the arrests "unacceptable"

after talks last week with Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, who said Meng was being treated in accordance with the law. China however has said that Canada and the United States overstepped their authority and that Meng, who was arrested while changing planes in Vancouver, broke no laws.

—AFP ■

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Dated 21st December 2018

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Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 21st December 2018

lmm@kcyangon.com

Bangladesh opposition goes underground as election threats grow

DHAKA (Bangladesh) — Subrata Chowdhury, an opposition candidate in the looming Bangladesh election, is too scared to leave his party office as campaign deaths and threats mount.

The Dhaka lawyer should be out on the streets handing out leaflets on meet-and-greets. But he says it is too dangerous while his party insists authorities are doing nothing to protect candidates.

"We were attacked by ruling party men as we tried to hang these posters," said Chowdhury in his glum headquarters amid stacks of unused flyers and banners. "The police were just silent spectators, or actively supported them."

—AFP ■

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 25th (Tuesday) December 2018 "CHRISTMAS DAY" being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS OF FSRU, POWER PLANT AND TRANSMISSION LINE

Total Gas and Power Business Services S.A.S., as part of a consortium, intends to develop a new Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) offshore import terminal to supply natural gas to a new power plant to be located near the Yadana Pipeline Centre (PLC) in Kanbauk, Ohnbinkwin village, Yebyu Township, Tanintharyi Region, Myanmar, and evacuate electrical power through an electrical transmission line to Bago Region.

This LNG to Power Project will consist of a Floating, Storage, Regasification Unit (FSRU) located offshore Kanbauk, a subsea pipeline and onshore pipeline into the PLC where natural gas will be supplied to a 1.23 GW power plant. The electrical transmission line will run from the power plant to the existing electrical grid at Bago with two electrical transformer substations to be located at Kanbauk and Mawlamyine regions.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Project is required to undertake two Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for the FSRU and power plant, and one Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) for the electrical transmission line to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). Environmental Resources Management (ERM) - Hong Kong Limited, Resource and Environment Myanmar (REM) and Environment Quality Management (EQM), on behalf of the Project, are currently undertaking these studies, which include baseline surveys and stakeholder engagement activities. The EIAs and IEE will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

More information on the Project can be found at

<http://www.total.com.mm/en-us/kanbauk-ling-power-project>

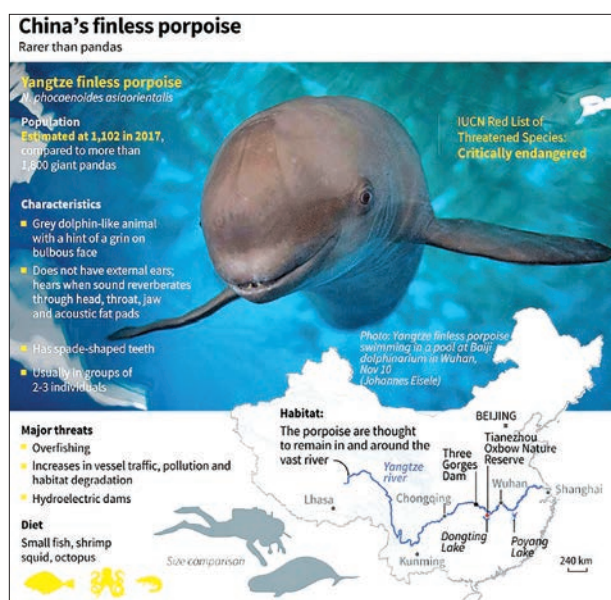
Smiling at danger, China's finless porpoise fights to survive

WUHAN(China) — In an oxbow lake along the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, a breathy sigh pierces the surface stillness as one of China's most endangered animals comes up for a gulp of hazy air.

A slick black back with no dorsal fin arches briefly above the water line before plunging back down.

Such glimpses of the shy Yangtze finless porpoise, the only aquatic mammal left in China's longest river and known in Chinese as the "smiling angel" for its perma-grin, are increasingly rare.

Pollution, overfishing, hydroelectric dams and shipping traffic have ren-



China's finless porpoise. PHOTO: AFP

dered them critically endangered, worse off even than China's best-known

symbol of animal conservation, the panda. China's government

estimates there were 1,012 wild Yangtze finless porpoises in 2017, compared to more than 1,800 giant pandas, which is no longer endangered. But researchers see signs of hope.

Porpoise numbers fell by nearly half from 2006-2012 to an estimated 1,040. But the rate of decline has slowed markedly since then, suggesting that conservation may be making a dent.

A central component of the rescue effort is the introduction of porpoises to several conservation areas off the busy river, where researchers say numbers have been actually increasing.

Encouraging signs

At the Tianezhou Oxbow Nature Reserve in central China's Hubei province, a curving lake linked to the Yangtze by a stream, around 30-40 porpoises were brought in beginning in the 1990s. There are now around 80. "We found out animals can not only survive but also reproduce naturally and successfully

at Tianezhou. That's very encouraging," said Wang Ding, 60, a porpoise expert with the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Researchers also credit official clamp-downs on polluting activities and fish overharvesting, artificial reproduction projects, and growing environmental awareness among China's emerging middle class.—AFP ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

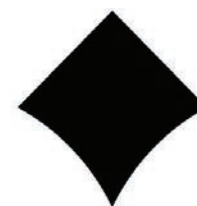
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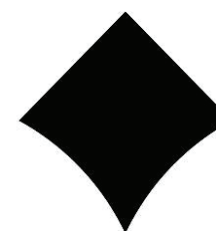
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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Dated 21st December 2018 hh@kcyangon.com

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD

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

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| No | Trade Name | Active Ingredient | Registration Type | Registration No |
|----|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Byter Dragular 70 WDG | Imidacloprid 70 % WDG | Provisional | P2017-3684 |
| 2 | Byter Bravo 40 EC | Isoprothiolane 40% EC | Provisional | P2017-3685 |
| 3 | Byter Bacter King 2 SL | Kasugamycin 2% SL | Provisional | P2017-3686 |
| 4 | Byter Aliba 50 WP | Kresoxim-methyl 50% WP | Provisional | P4017-3687 |
| 5 | Byter Fast 27.6 SL | Paraquat 27.6 SL | Provisional | |
| 6 | Byter Min Lat War 33 EC | Pendimethalin 330 g/l EC | Provisional | P2017-3692 |
| 7 | Byter Green Arrow 1.8 EC | Abamectin 1.8 % EC | Provisional | P2017-3674 |
| 8 | Byter Done Pyan 50 SP | Cartap 50% SP | Provisional | P2017-3677 |
| 9 | Byter Royal 10 WDG | Difenoconazole 10%WDG | Provisional | P2017-3679 |
| 10 | Byter Control 80 WDG | Dimethomorph 80% WDG | Provisional | P2017-3680 |
| 11 | Byter Pronil 5 EC | Fipronil 5% EC | Provisional | P2017-3681 |
| 12 | Byter Slow Motion 48 SL | Glyphosate 48% SL | Provisional | P2017-3682 |
| 13 | Byter Silinzer 48 EC | Chlorpyrifos 480 g/l EC | Provisional | P2017-3514 |
| 14 | Byter Su Na Me 55 EC | Chlorpyrifos 50% +Cypermethrin 5% | Provisional | P2017-3515 |

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'All Who Can Read Should Read' campaign held in Nay Pyi Taw



Students look at authors' photos showcased at the 'All Who Can Read Should Read' campaign. **PHOTO: MNA**



Varieties of books displayed at the 'All Who Can Read Should Read' campaign. **PHOTO: MNA**



'All Who Can Read Should Read' campaign is alive with teeming crowd in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



A book shop at the campaign is crowded with students. **PHOTO: MNA**



Students reading interesting books at the campaign. **PHOTO: MNA**



People look around books and related materials at the campaign. **PHOTO: MNA**



Students look at discs and tape recorder at the campaign. **PHOTO: MNA**



Visitors observe the exhibition of string art of palm leaves scrolls in bundles. **PHOTO: MNA**



Students observe stone scripts displayed at the campaign. **PHOTO: MNA**



Students tell their stories at the campaign. **PHOTO: MNA**

Argentina puts 65-million-year-old dinosaur replica on display

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina)—Argentine paleontologists unveiled on Wednesday the replica of a 65-million-year-old skeleton of a plesiosaur marine reptile found in a Patagonian lake in 2009.

“We’ve been working since 2009 until now to liberate the fossil from the rock surrounding it, making a reproduction and hanging it here in the museum hall,” paleontologist Fernando Novas of the Bernardino Rivadavia Natural Science Museum in Buenos Aires told AFP.

The fossil is of a marine reptile found in Cretaceous period rocks close to the southern town of El Calafate, 2,800 kilometers (1,700 miles) from Buenos Aires.

The remains of this plesiosaur are the most complete found in Argentina and were discovered in rocks submerged in Lake Argentino at the foot of the Andes mountains.

“It was around 50 centimeters (1.64 feet) under the water and part of the lake had to be drained to take out the rocks,” said scientist Marcelo Isasi.

Four tons of rocks had to be removed to unearth the fossil



A reproduction of the skeleton of a 65-million-year-old plesiosaur marine reptile discovered in cretaceous rocks in Argentine Patagonia. PHOTO: AFP

remains, found just 500 meters (1,640 feet) from an international airport.

Plesiosaurs were huge marine reptiles that lived in seas throughout the entire planet inhabited the entire planet, with long necks, tiny heads and sharp teeth.

It was an era before the Andes existed and when Argentine Patagonia lay underwater.

The fossil is nine meters long with each fin measuring 1.3 meters.—AFP ■

Scientists discover most distant object in solar system

WASHINGTON—Astronomers have discovered the most distant object in the solar system, a dwarf planet about 120 astronomical units from the sun.

The distance is 120 times the distance between the Earth and the Sun —so far away that its discoverers called it “Farout,” though its official name is 2018 VG18.

“Farout” is about 300 miles in diameter and has a “pinkish, reddish hue to it,” according to Scott Sheppard of the Carnegie Institution for Science in Washington, one of the scientists who made the discovery. Its pinkish color also suggests that the planet is covered in ice, said the scientist.

“When I saw the object for the first time, it was moving so slowly, it was the slowest thing I’ve ever seen,” said

Sheppard, adding that it may take more than 1,000 years for the object to trip around the sun. Sheppard and other scientists spotted Farout during their search for a ninth major planet at the outer reaches of the solar system. There are roughly 50 dwarf planets in the solar system. The biggest are Pluto, with a diameter of about 2,370 km, and Eris, with a diameter of about 2,325 km.—Xinhua ■

Astronauts land from ISS stint marred by air leak, rocket failure

MOSCOW (Russia)—Three astronauts landed back on Earth on Thursday after a troubled stint on the ISS marred by an air leak and the failure of a rocket set to bring new crew members. A Soyuz spacecraft ferrying Alexander Gerst of the European Space Agency, NASA’s Serena Aunon-Chancellor and Sergey Prokopyev of Roscosmos from the International Space Station landed safely in Kazakhstan, Russia’s space agency said.

“There’s been a landing... The crew of the manned Soyuz MS-09 has returned safely to Earth after 197 days,” Roscosmos said on Twitter. The spacecraft landed slightly ahead of schedule at 0802 Moscow time (0502 GMT), Roscosmos said on its website. “The crew feels well after returning to Earth,” the space agency said.

Live footage on the websites of NASA and Roscosmos did not show the landing of the astronauts’ capsule due to thick fog in the Kazakh steppe.

NASA said that all the search and recovery helicopters had arrived at the scene and were preparing to extract the crewmembers. When the astronauts blasted off in June, they were one of the least experienced crews ever to join the International Space Station—only Gerst had been on a space mission before, in 2014. The first significant incident came in August when astronauts detected an air leak in their Soyuz spacecraft, which was docked to the orbiting space laboratory.—AFP ■



NASA astronaut Serena Aunon-Chancellor, Roscosmos cosmonaut Sergey Prokopyev and German astronaut Alexander Gerst set off in June. PHOTO: AFP

Vietnam Airlines - Winter Schedule from 28 October 2018

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|---------------|
| Yangon - Hanoi | VN 956 | Daily | 18:55 - 21:20 |
| Yangon - Ho Chi Minh City | VN 942 | Daily | 12:10 - 15:10 |
| Hanoi - Yangon | VN 957 | Daily | 16:30 - 18:00 |
| Ho Chi Minh City - Yangon | VN 943 | Daily | 09:20 - 11:10 |

For more information, please contact to Vietnam Airlines Myanmar:
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• Tel: (+95) 1 934 5380, 934 5381, 934 5382 • FB: Vietnam Airlines - Myanmar • Email: reservation.mm@vietnamairlines.com.

Vietnam Airlines DESTINATIONS WITH BEST CONNECTING TIME FROM YANGON

| ITINERARY | FREQUENCY | DEPARTURE | TRANSIT | CONNECTING | ARRIVAL | TOTAL TIME |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------|----------|------------|
| Yangon - Tokyo/Osaka/Fukuoka/Nagoya * | Daily | 18:55 | Hanoi | 03:05 | 07:00 +1 | 09:35 |
| Yangon - Seoul/Pusan ** | Daily | 18:55 | Hanoi | 02:15 | 05:30 +1 | 08:05 |
| Yangon - Taipei | Daily | 12:10 | Ho Chi Minh city | 01:40 | 21:10 | 07:30 |
| Yangon - Paris | Daily | 18:55 | Hanoi | 01:55 | 06:30 +1 | 17:05 |
| Yangon - London | Tue, Thu, Fri, Sun | 18:55 | Hanoi | 03:35 | 07:15 +1 | 18:50 |
| Yangon - Frankfurt | Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun | 18:55 | Hanoi | 01:55 | 06:00 +1 | 16:35 |
| Tokyo/Osaka/Fukuoka/Nagoya - Yangon * | Daily | 10:00 | Hanoi | 02:05 | 18:00 | 10:30 |
| Seoul/Pusan - Yangon ** | Daily | 10:35 | Hanoi | 03:05 | 18:00 | 09:55 |
| Taipei - Yangon | Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat | 13:20 | Hanoi | 01:05 | 18:00 | 06:10 |
| Paris - Yangon | Wed, Fri, Sun | 13:35 | Ho Chi Minh city | 01:45 | 11:10 +1 | 16:05 |
| London - Yangon | Mon, Wed, Sat | 11:00 | Ho Chi Minh city | 03:05 | 11:10 +1 | 17:40 |
| Frankfurt - Yangon | Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat | 13:55 | Ho Chi Minh city | 01:45 | 11:10 +1 | 15:45 |

Note:
* The schedule is for Yangon - Tokyo (Narita Airport) only. Other routes to Japan have similar flight schedules.
** The schedule is for Yangon - Seoul only. Yangon - Pusan route has a similar schedule.
Schedules are based on local time at destinations; Time "hh:mm + 1" indicates time in the next day of the trip

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REACH FURTHER

National Football Team matches to be shown live free-to-air

THE Myanmar Football Federation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with My Sports for the live broadcast of matches of the National Football Team, which will be made available to fans through a free-to-air service soon.

The announcement for the new service was made by the MFF yesterday.

The MoU was signed at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel on Wednesday, and the signing ceremony was attended by officials from the MFF, the Myanmar Na-

tional League, and My Sports.

With the MoU, the MFF has sold the broadcasting rights for football matches to My Sports for the very first time.

The move will help generate funds for the development of Myanmar football, said a source with the MFF.

The MFF will work hand-in-hand with My Sports for free-to-air access for football fans and detailed information about the new service will be released soon, said the source.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar's defender Nanda Kyaw (L) and Malaysia's midfielder Mohamadou Sumareh (#13) fight for the ball during the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 football match between Malaysia and Myanmar at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 24 November. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar to compete in AFF U-22 Championship in Cambodia

MYANMAR will take part in the 2019 AFF U-22 Youth Championship to be held from 17 February to 2 March in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, according to a statement from the ASEAN Football Federation.

The championship is also dubbed as the pre-SEA Games tournament as the ASEAN Football Federation is organizing it as a preparatory tournament for nations competing in the 2019 Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games), which are scheduled to be held in the Philippines in November next year.

A total of 11 countries - host Cambodia, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sin-

gapore, Timor-Leste, and Brunei - are participating in the U-22 tourney. Myanmar has been placed in Group B along with host Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore, while Thailand, Viet Nam, Timor-Leste, Laos, Brunei, and the Philippines have been placed in Group A.

The AFF U-22 Youth Championship is an international football competition for teams of the member nations of the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF).

The current champion among the U-22 teams is the Thailand team, which is also the most successful team in the history of the tourney. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

National medalists from 19th ASEAN University Games honoured in Nay Pyi Taw

OUTSTANDING athletes who raised the esteem of Myanmar at the 19th ASEAN University Games were honored at a ceremony at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. First, Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivered an opening speech.

In his speech, he said it is an auspicious day where outstanding athletes who won medals in the 19th ASEAN University Games were honored as they were promoting the image of the country and the people. Due to the supervision of Ministry of Health and Sports and Ministry of Education, the support of the chairmen of respective sports federations and sports sub-committees, Myanmar participated in 17 events and bagged a total of 79 medals of which 24 were gold, 26 were silver and 29 were bronze.

The Union Minister honour and put on record the athletes who put Myanmar in the fourth

place in the University Games. He also added that more outstanding athletes are expected as B.Sc (Sport) classes are being conducted in Dagon University and Yadanabon University. Based on the lessons learnt at 19th University Games, all athletes should strive toward achieving more victories in the upcoming 20th University Games.

The Union Minister also expressed his appreciation to ministries, sports federations, donors and all those who are ought to be thanked. Afterwards, Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, Dr. Win Thein presented certificates of honour to the gold, silver and bronze winners in the 19th University Games. Next, Deputy Minister for Education, U Win Maw Tun and Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein presented certificates of honour to the sports feder-

ation authorities who assisted the athletes to win the medals. The Ministry of Education and donors then presented K 5 million for the gold medalists, K 3 million for the silver medalists and K 2 million for the bronze medalists respectively. Following that, Sports Federations also presented K 3 million for the gold medalists, K 2 million for the silver medalists and K 1 million for the bronze medalists respectively. Subsequently, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Tin Tun also presented certificates of honour to liaison officers and Masters of Ceremony. Next, Director-General of the Department of Higher Education, Dr. Thein Win presented certificates of honour to the hoteliers who assisted with accommodation for the foreign athletes during the holding of the University Games.

After the ceremony, a luncheon was hosted. —MNA ■
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Rockets nab long-range record in win, Raptors rally

LOS ANGELES (United States)—The Houston Rockets set an NBA single-game record with 26 three-pointers Wednesday in a 136-118 rout of the Washington Wizards.

The crowd at Houston's Toyota Center was chanting

"One more three! One more three!" when Michael Carter-Williams drained the record-breaker from beyond the arc with 31.1 seconds remaining and victory assured.

Gary Clark's three-pointer with 2:42 to play had tied the

previous mark of 25 set by the Cleveland Cavaliers against Atlanta in March 2017.

Reigning NBA Most Valuable Player James Harden had six three-pointers on the way to 35 points. Chris Paul added five from beyond the arc and Gerald

Green and Eric Gordon made four apiece as the Rockets—who endured a rough start to the season—got back to their free-wheeling ways in a fifth straight victory.

"We're just playing better," Rockets coach Mike

D'Antoni said. "When you have the right spirit, you're doing the right things, hustling, stuff falls in. If you don't, you don't make them. "Our energy is right the last five games. We've just got to keep it there." —AFP ■