

SUNDAY
SPECIAL

Pull-out supplement

SUNDAY SPECIAL

Sticking to
New Year's
Resolutions?

NATIONAL

Donation ceremony held to mark Two Dragons Monastery
Sayadaw's 90th birthday in Tachilek Tsp, Shan State (East)

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Sunday, 30 December 2018

Christmas prayer, luncheon held at
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker's residence

President, First Lady, State Counsellor attend Christmas celebration

PRESIDENT U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a Christmas prayer and luncheon held at Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat's residence yesterday noon.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, wife Daw Yin May and family welcomed President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Chairman of the Myanmar Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Htay Yi, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and wife, Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and wife, Union Ministers, Union Auditor-General, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Justices of the Supreme Court of the Union, members of the Union Election Commission, Deputy Ministers, Deputy Attorney General, members of the Un-



President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi slice the Christmas cake as Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and wife Daw Yin May clap in celebration at the residence of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

ion Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw Council members and wives, chairmen and secretaries of the Hluttaw Affairs com-

mittees, departmental heads, Reverends and invited guests.

The luncheon began with Nay Pyi Taw Council of

Churches Chairman Rev. Dr. Tin Maung Aye delivering a Christmas prayer, after which he extended his blessings to the

State leaders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the people of Myanmar.

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Donation ceremony held to mark Two Dragons Monastery Sayadaw's 90th birthday

A donation ceremony to mark the 90th birthday of State Ovad-acariya Sayadaw Abhidaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Agga Maha Pandita Baddanta Dhamma Siri, the presiding Sayadaw of the Two Dragons Monastery in Tachilek Township, Eastern Shan State, yesterday morning.

Venerable Sayadaws and monks attended the birthday donation together with the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Tatmadaw officers from the C-in-C office, Commander of Triangle Command Maj-Gen Khin Hlaing, department officials and local residents.

Saydaw Bhaddanta Dhamma Siri and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala of the Thila Dhamma

Kontha Forest Monastery, the Senior General and wife offered provisions and offertories to 300 invited monks and 50 nuns. The Senior General, his wife, and attendees listened to parittas recited by the Sayadaws and Members of the Sangha.

Next, the Senior General and wife donated offertories to the Two Dragons Monastery Sayadaw, and the Sayadaw presented a Buddha image and Dhamma gifts in return. The Senior General and his wife then offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws, monks and nuns.

Later in the day, the Senior General and his wife visited the Maha Myat Muni Monastery in Tachilek. They paid obeisance to presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadaja Bhadd-



Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing donates offertories to Sayadaw Baddanta Dhamma Siri, presiding Sayadaw of Two Dragons Monastery. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

anta Panna Sami and donated offertories, according to news released from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Chief Justice attends stake driving ceremony for Chin State High Court



Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo sprinkles scented water on the stake driven for construction of Chin State High Court. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo attended a stake driving ceremony for the Chin State High Court held at Chin State, Haka, yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai, Supreme Court Judge U Myint Aung, Chin State Hluttaw Speaker U Zo Bawi, Chin State Chief Judge U Win Myint Kyaw, Magway Region Chief Judge U Sein Htun, Chin State minister for road and transportation U Shwe Htee Yo, Chin State minister for development affairs, electricity and industry U Soe Htet and Ministry of Construction Permanent Secretary U Win Tint drove the stakes and sprinkled scented waters on it.

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo conducted the traditional ceremony upon the successful

completion of the stake driving ceremony and then posed for commemorative group photos with guests and officials. Union Chief Justice and officials then inspected the ground where the State High Court will be constructed and discussed additional matters. The State High Court will be built on a 0.887 acre of land and is a 3-story reinforced concrete building measuring 167 ft. x 120 ft. It will contain three court rooms, four rest rooms for judges, rooms for law officers, lawyers, security room, evidence storage room, library, case storage room, meeting hall, guest room, media room, and more, which will be constructed by the Ministry of Construction Building Construction Group 2, Special Building Group 6.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Four bridges in Rakhine State to be commissioned soon

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu inspected Kyatsin bridge yesterday, which is under construction on the Myebon-Minbya Road in Rakhine State, along with Teingyo Bridge and Darlat Bridge on the Yangon-Sittway Road.

Teinbyo Bridge, which crosses Thiri Creek on the Yangon-Sittway Road in MyaukU Township, is nearly completed and expected to be commissioned into service soon.

The iron reinforced bridge is 360 ft long and 30 ft wide, and is able to withstand loads of some 60 tons.

The bridge was built by the Group-2 of the Ministry of Construction.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister visited Kyatsin Bridge, which spans the Kyatsin River

between milepost 22/4 and 23/1 of the road from Minbya to Myebon. This bridge is still under construction.

Construction of the bridge started on 1 July, 2014 and is expected to be opened soon.

Once the bridge is open, the flow of commodities will increase and the lives of the people in the region will improve.

Kyatsin Bridge is 1,920 ft. long and has a road width of 24 ft., as well as a 3 ft-wide pedestrian path on both sides. The bridge's foundation includes reinforced bore piles. The body of the bridge is made of reinforced concrete, with an upper structure of a steel frame plate girder and reinforced concrete flooring.

The waterway under the Kyatsin Bridge is 215 ft. wide

(65.53 metres), and the clearance between the water and bridge is 39 ft. 4 inches.

The bridge can accommodate vehicles weighing 75 tonnes and costs an estimated K11.145 billion. At present, commuting between Minbya and Myebon had to be done via the Z-craft and small crafts, which is especially difficult at night.

In the afternoon, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu also inspected the Darlat Bridge, which has been completed and will soon be inaugurated. The bridge is 960 ft long and 30 ft wide, and can withstand loads of 75 tons. Additionally, the Satyokya Bridge over the Satyokya Creek in Sittway has been completed and is expected to be inaugurated soon.

—Maw Si, Ko Min ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and party inspect the Kyatsin bridge yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

“ ‘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)

Christmas prayer, luncheon held at Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker's residence

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Next, President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi cut the Christmas cake together.

Afterwards, invited guests sang Christmas songs, followed by Rev. U Chan Khaw of the Kachin Baptist Convention delivering a prayer.

The President, First Lady, State Counsellor and invited guests then had lunch together. After the luncheon, the President, First Lady and State Counsellor took a commemorative group photo with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, his wife and family and guests. — MNA
■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*



President U Win Myint, First Lady and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi take a documentary group photo with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, his wife and family and guests. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol

A COORDINATED patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted at border posts 53 to 54 on 28 December, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

The Myanmar patrol was led by Acting Police Major Myint Htay from No.5 Border Police sub-division, Area 1, Maungtau

Township, while the Bangladesh patrol was led by Subedar Md. Salim Mia of No. 11 Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB).

After discussions near border post 53, troops from Myanmar and Bangladesh jointly conducted the patrol along the border. —GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference concludes

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference that continued at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the conference, the chairman, Department of Traditional Medicine Director General Dr. Moe Swe, delivered the opening remarks and discussed submissions made at the conference, along with plans for future works.

Panel discussions under various themes were held throughout the day, and questions were answered as attendees joined in discussions. After the panel discussions, the closing ceremony for the



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivers concluding remarks at the final day of the 19th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Conference.

PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference was held. Dr. Moe Swe delivered a closing speech and presented

documents of honor to panelists who participated in the panel discussion. — MNA
■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Buddhists from twelve countries hold New Year prayer in Bangkok

Buddhists from twelve countries attended a New Year prayer ceremony held at Sanam Luang in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday afternoon.

The prayer ceremony was attended by 16 Sayadaws from Myanmar, led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, Tipitaka Sayadaws, State/Region Sanghanayaka Sayadaws totaling 31 sanghas and 26 lay persons, led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko.

The New Year prayer ceremony will be held in Bangkok, from 29 December until the

morning of 1 January morning, and starting from 11 p.m. 31 December, Sanghas from 12 countries will conduct the New Year prayer.

Last year's New Year prayer ceremony marking the transition from 2017 to 2018 was held at Yangon, Mingaladon Garden City, Zabu Okshaung Myat Bon Khaung Pagoda where invited sanghas from various countries conducted prayers. It was jointly organized by the Asian Buddhist Community, Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Federation and Border Areas and Hill Region Sasana Nuggaha Association.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



The Myanmar delegation led by Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko pose for documentary photo together with Members of the Sangha from twelve countries at a New Year prayer ceremony in Bangkok. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda construction works begin in Kengtung



The replica of the Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda which is under construction in Kengtung, eastern Shan State. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

TATMADAW (Army, Navy, Air) families and others donated to assist in the construction of the Abaya Raza Muni Buddha Image in the Pankwe Taungtaung Buddha Garden near Pankwe village. The garden is located some 15 miles east of Kengtung town. The project seeks to bring about peace in Eastern Shan State area, strengthen Theravada Buddhism and support regional development through the arrival of pilgrims, from both those in Myanmar and from abroad. The Buddha image is on a throne measuring 180 ft. by 150 ft. by 18 ft. high, while the image itself is 54 ft. high, reaching a total height of 72 ft.

Also, with the aim to help pilgrims and ethnic nationals in the hill areas who are unable to visit Bodh Gaya, a 108 ft. high Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda,

which is a replica of the Thatta Thattaha Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, is being built with the combined donations from Tatmadaw families and donors in the compound of the Pankwe Taungtaung Buddha Garden. Replicas of the four sites where Buddha attained enlightenment, was born, held his first sermon and attained Mahaparinirvana – known as Thanwayzaniya Four Sites – is also being built, as in the original sites.

Also displayed in the Buddha Garden are marble images of Buddha in various mudras, as well as stone inscriptions of religious verses and sayings by prominent Sayadaws, according to information released by the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief's Office inviting pilgrims to visit.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

University of Veterinary Science (Yezin) holds 32nd graduation

UNIVERSITY of Veterinary Science (Yezin) held its 32nd graduation ceremony yesterday at the university in Zeyathiri Township.

At the graduation, 93 students received Bachelor of Animal Science-BASc, 11 were awarded Masters of Veterinary Science-MVSc and 218 received Bachelor of Veterinary Science-BVSc. Ph.D. degrees were also conferred on two students by the university at the graduation ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony, Rector of the university Prof. Dr. Mar Mar Win urged the graduates to take part in nation-building activities while carrying out their careers, as the role of veterinarians is involved today in not only health and diseases

of animals, but also in the prevention of animal-to-human diseases, the safety of food from the livestock sector, and promoting the socio-economy of the rural population through the breeding of livestock.

On behalf of the nation, the rector said that graduation day brings pride to the country, as it comes together with the new veterinarians for the livestock breeding sector of the country.

Afterwards, Dr. Khin Zaw, Permanent Secretary of the Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, presented prizes to outstanding graduates.

During the morning session, PhD, MVSc and BVSc were conferred on the graduates by Rector Dr. Mar Mar Win. In the afternoon, BASc, which

is the first ever degree offered by the university, was conferred on 93 graduates by Prof. Dr. Mar Mar Win.

The university launched a four-year Bachelor of Animal Science-BASc program during the 2014-2015 academic year.

The university also offers a six-year Bachelor of Veterinary Science-BVSc program.

The University of Veterinary Science (Yezin) was founded in 1957. In the past 61 years it awarded 93 graduates with BASc degrees, 5,446 with BVSc degrees, 220 with DipLIS, 449 with DipLPA, 21 with MPhil, nine with MVM degrees, 279 with MVSc degrees and 19 with PhD degrees. — Zin Oo, Wai Thu Nwe (Myanma Alin) ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



University of Veterinary Science (Yezin) holds 32nd graduation ceremony. **PHOTO: MNA**

Over 1.5 mln tons of rice exported within 9 months of 2018

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR exported over 1.5 million tons of rice and broken rice from 1 April to 14 December, 2018, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Although Myanmar targeted to export over 2 million tons of rice and broken rice during the six-month interim period leading to the next fiscal year 2018-2019, Myanmar only exported over 1.5

million tons of rice and broken rice within 9 months, with an estimated value of over US\$528 million.

Myanmar earned some US\$287.950 million from over 836,572 tons of rice and broken rice exports through border trade routes, and over US\$240.584 million from over 720,984 tons of rice and broken rice export via maritime trade.

Myanmar exports rice and

broken rice with ships to China, as well as through Muse 105 border trade routes.

However, rice being shipped from the Muse route has been temporarily suspended, said U Than Oo, the secretary of Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre.

“Currently, merchants have to rely on normal trade routes. Border trade sales are temporarily suspended. Now,

Myanmar is exporting 50 per cent of rice and broken rice to foreign countries. The exports of rice are only being relied upon through maritime trade,” he added.

“We need more rice exporters and investors to export more rice through normal trade routes, because the export volume has declined in border trade. We also need more factories, warehouses, tracks for

transportation, machinery for cargo and labourers,” said U Than Oo.

Recently, the price of exported 25 marks quality of broken rice was K 19,200 per bag at the Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre.

During the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, Myanmar exported over 3.6 million tons of rice to foreign countries. *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Myanmar-Malaysia trade went down over 49 % in October

TRADE between Myanmar and Malaysia totalled US\$50.5 million during the first month of the current fiscal year 2018-2019, down by \$48.9 million, or 48.6 per cent, from the corresponding period last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

This year’s bilateral exports reached \$13.4 million, while bilateral imports exceeded \$37 million. When compared with last year, this year saw a decline in value of both bilateral imports and exports. The current export value decreased slightly, by \$0.006 million, however, the current import value declined by over \$47 million, as against the same month last year.

At this time during the 2017-2018 fiscal year, bilateral trade was \$98.4 million, with \$13.4 million in exports and \$84.9 million in imports.

Myanmar’s imports from Malaysia include oil, consumer goods, plastic ware, chemicals, stone and glass, footwear, minerals, metals, construction appliances, wire, medical products, electronic devices and intermediate goods. Each month, the country exports marine products, clothing, forest-based

products, agricultural commodities and other miscellaneous products to Malaysia.

The ministry’s annual statistical report showed that trade between the two nations hit \$600 million during the mini-budget period between April and September 2018, increasing by over \$66 million from the corresponding period last year.

Myanmar-Malaysia trade reached a record high of \$1.089 billion in the last 2017-2018 FY. The bilateral trade was \$980 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$750 million in the 2015-2016 FY, more than \$1 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, over \$940 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$458 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$455 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Malaysian investment in Myanmar during the previous 2017-2018 FY was \$21.8 million. Its investments in Myanmar during the six-month period totalled \$7.34 million. It made new investments worth about \$1.18 million in the first two months of the 2018-2019 FY.—Shwe Khine ■ *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*



A farmer picks up chilli peppers in the farm in Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Prices of chili peppers increase in domestic market

PRICES of chili peppers increased by some K1,000 per viss (1.6 kilogrammes or 3.6 pounds) in the domestic market late this year, in comparison with the same period last year, according to local merchants.

Retailers say that prices of chili peppers grown in the delta regions were K2,100-K2,200 per viss (3.6 lbs) this summer. These prices went up to K4,300-K4,400 per viss during the monsoon pe-

riod when newly harvested chili peppers reach the market from Pyawbwe and Meiktila in Upper Myanmar.

Myanmar also imports chili peppers from India, its second largest neighboring country. Prices of chili peppers imported from India were some K3,500 per viss in early 2018. In the middle of the year, the price increased to K4,500 per viss.

When compared with the

corresponding period last year, prices of chili peppers increased by K1,000 per viss, on average. At this time last year, prices of chili peppers were about K3,500 per viss.

As a marketable product, chili peppers are primarily used for culinary purposes because of their being a hot spice.—Maung Say Aung ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Myanmar earns almost \$3.3 bln in international trade

MYANMAR earned nearly US\$3.3 billion from the export sector during the present 2018-2019 fiscal year, an increase in value by \$485 million over this same time last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce’s Friday report.

From 1 October through

21 December, 2018, private exporters sold \$2.7 billion worth of domestic products, while \$580 million worth of products were exported by the public sector.

From this same period last year, the country earned almost \$2.8 billion from exports, consisting of over \$2 billion by private

exporters and \$717 million from public exporters. Compared with the corresponding period in the last 2017-2018 FY, the private sector’s exports increased by \$622 million, but the public sector’s exports declined by \$136 million.

During the period, Myanmar exported six major groups

of commodities, plus other miscellaneous items, including agro products worth \$647 million, animal products valued at \$149 million, marine products worth \$207 million, minerals worth \$274 million, forest-based products at \$43 million and manufactured goods worth \$1.754 billion, as well as oth-

er products reaching 187 million, with a total of \$3.263 billion. Between April and September this year, Myanmar exported goods amounting to \$8.8 billion, with \$2.2 billion from the public sector and nearly \$6.6 billion from the private sector.—Khine Khant ■ *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

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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.

MNA begins flying to Chengdu, PRC

STATE-owned Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), has begun flying to China's Chengdu, as a ceremony was held at Terminal -1 foreign departure, Yangon International Airport, at 9 pm on 28 December.

At the ceremony, U Win Khant, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Transport and Communications, delivered a speech. Additionally, Ms. Li Xiaoyan, Minister Counsellor from the China Embassy to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, also gave a speech.

Like that, Captain Than Tun, Chief Executive Officer of MNA, explained about MNA's new route to China's Chengdu, and an official from Yangon Aerodrome Co., Ltd gave a welcoming speech.

Afterwards, Permanent



Officials opening the Yangon-Chengdu flight at Terminal -1 foreign departure, Yangon International Airport on 28 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

Secretary U Win Khant and officials cut ribbon to formally open the ceremony.

MNA started flying its sixth international route to China's Chengdu, Sichuan Province, on 28 December using Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft from international

terminal-1 on 28 December.

"At present, MNA flies to 28 domestic airports and international destinations, including Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Chiang Mai and Bodh Gaya.

Now, MNA has extended its

service to China's Chengdu," said Captain Than Tun, CEO of MNA.

The price of a round-trip ticket for the Yangon-Chengdu trip is US\$330 per person, at present.

The Yangon-Chengdu flight will fly every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:20 pm. The Chengdu flight will fly every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, departing at 3:35 am from Chengdu airport.

Myanmar National Airlines was established on 15 September 1948 as Union of Burma Airways (UBA).

After a period in isolation, along with many of Myanmar's industries, the airline has now been reborn as Myanmar National Airlines.—MNA ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Ngawun Bridge (Laymyathnar) to open in February 2019

TO ensure the smooth flow of local commodities in Ayeyawady Region, the Ngawun Bridge (Laymyathnar) will be opened in February 2019, according to the Ministry of Construction.

The Ngawun Bridge was built on Laymyathnar-Katu-Pantawgyi road in Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region, with K 11.45 billion of capital funds from Ayeyawady Region. The bridge is a two-way concrete bridge measuring 600 meters long. It also includes two other main sections, a 170 meter long bridge at one end on the Laymyathnar side and a 190 meter long bridges at the another end on the Pantawgyi side. The two-way concrete bridge is 24 meters wide, flanked by 3.6 feet wide pedestrian walkways, while the clearance is 6.1 meters high and 53 meters wide. The bridge can handle loads of up to 75-tons, according to the Bridge special team-16.



The Ngawun Bridge, built on Laymyathnar-Katu-Pantawgyi road in Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region, will be opened in February, 2019. **PHOTO: PWINT THITSA**

Ngawun River divided the east and north of the Laymyathnar Town. Among 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region, Laymyathnar Township has become a town to be developed. Therefore, the government built the bridge for the development of

Laymyathnar Township.

To assist in the local people's social, economic, educational and health sectors, the Ministry of Construction and Ayeyawady Region government issued a temporary pass for the bridge beginning on 1 December.

Moreover, the Laymyathnar side of the bridge costs K 1145.68 million. The construction period started on 18 November, 2016, according to the bridge department of the Ministry of the Construction.—Pwint Thitsa ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Tourist arrivals in Yangon exceed one mln in 11 months

MYANMAR'S commercial capital, Yangon, welcomed more than one million tourists from January to November this year, said U Naing Win, the director of the Yangon Region's Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Tourism has grown at a good pace this year thanks to support from the country's head of government and the authorities in the regions and states, he said.

"The tourism sector saw more progress after the government allowed visa-free entry to Myanmar for citizens of Japan, South Korea, Macau, and Hong Kong, and visa-on-arrival to Chinese visitors. This year, we have mainly seen tourists from Thailand and China," he said.

According to data from the Directorate, more than 120,000 foreign travellers came to Myan-

mar by air, while over 8,000 tourists visited the country aboard cruise ships. The Chinese made up the majority of tourists visiting Myanmar this year. They mostly chartered flights to the Yangon and Mandalay international airports.

Myanmar's main tourist attractions include the ice-capped Mt. Hkakaborazi, the country's highest mountain, located in its

northernmost, and the more than 800 islands in the Myeik Archipelago in the southern part of the country. Besides, Yangon and Mandalay are home to several important cultural, historical, and religious sites, including Buddhist temples, monasteries, monuments, and colonial buildings.—Myint Maung Soe ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Second day of Children's literature festival in Muse District

Muse District's Children's Literature Festival continued its second day from 9 am to 5 pm yesterday. The festival was bustling with students, literary enthusiasts, parents and local residents from Muse, Namhkan, Kutkai, Manhero, and Pansai (KyuKok) Townships.

The festival held contests for storytelling, poem recitals, coloring, assembling puzzles, impromptu speaking, and vari-

ous games.

There were also two literary talks held at the festival. One of the topics was 'Future of children's literature' and discussed by Sayar Min Htet Maung, Sayar Hnin Kar Moe, U Win Cho and Sayama Daw Kyi Mhwa Eain with Sayar Maung Lin Yeik as moderator.

The other topic for the literary talk was 'Promoting reading among children' and was discussed by Maung Khine Lat, U



A young girl and her classmates try out microscopes. **PHOTO: MNA**



Young girls assembling toys at the festival. **PHOTO: MNA**



Visitors at Muse District Children's Literature Festival watch ethnic people in traditional attire performing. **PHOTO: MNA**

Kyaw Hlaing, Ko Lay Myat and Lei Win Kyi (Cho) with Maung Kyi Win as moderator.

Festivalgoers also flocked to twelve exhibition booths featuring traditional accessories of ethnic Shan, ethnic Bamar, ethnic Rakhine, ethnic Lisu, and ethnic Kayin, raising awareness on drugs, traffic rules, anti-human trafficking, fire prevention, public health education, basic

education schools, and ICTC private school.

In the entertainment part of the festival, students from basic education high schools and ICTC private school performed 20 dances and musicals.

People also lined up at bookstalls and snacked on charity food provided by New Starlight Construction Company.

The Children's Literature

Festivals held throughout Myanmar are aimed at sharpening the mental aptitudes and perspectives of children, refining their creativity and enunciation, familiarizing children with literature, instilling reading habits, and creating a happy environment for children. —Muse District IPRD

(Translated by
Zaw Htet Oo)



Parents and children browse through children's books at Muse Children's Literature Festival. **PHOTO: MNA**

Newly created Condominium Management Committee ready to support developers

BASED upon Condominium Law 2016, the Ministry of Construction created the Yangon Region Condominium Management Committee earlier this month to support developers building official condominium buildings.

Regarding the new committee, U Khin Zaw, joint-secretary

of the Yangon Region Condominium Management Committee said, "Now the Condominium Law and bylaw have come out. We have received the nod for the formation of the working committee. Those who want to construct condominiums have to contact Yangon Region Urban

and Housing Development Department to make sure that the processes are in accord with the law. Thanks to it, condo owners will own not only their land, but also apartments."

He went on to say that official trading will enable owners to enjoy the rights enshrined in

the Condominium Law, which also allows foreigners to own up to 40 per cent of a condominium. Thanks to this, the condo market is expected to be revived.

Chaired by the Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport, the management committee was

founded with nine members on 5 December. The deputy director-general of Urban and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction will serve as a secretary to the committee.—Thi Thi Min ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Legislative pillar upholds true essence of democracy

MYANMAR breathed life into its constitution and began practicing a democratic system after it gained independence and became a sovereign state. In fact, from the moment we first started implementing a democratic system, sovereignty rested in the hands of the people. This means the people have the authority to elect their representatives in dealing with national issues.

Myanmar immediately began to implement a democratic system after gaining independence but due to various reasons the system came to an abrupt halt. This is one of the main factors causing Myanmar to fall behind other countries. Now, we are once again sculpting the democratic system, in the hope of bringing benefits to the country and the people. We are just taking our first steps into the democratic transition.

The legislative pillar is responsible for shaping the democratic system. Before Myanmar gained independence, representatives in

the Union Parliament first engaged in processes for national freedom, rehabilitation, building up the nation, and enacting laws for governing the nation. They brought the democratic system to life and carried out the rights of citizens and national development.

In a democratic system, the Hluttaws need to be strengthened upwards from the foundation as they are the building blocks of the nation. Its members of parliaments (MPs) also need to possess the required capabilities. MPs need to be united and work as a team. Discussions in the Hluttaws have to be devoid of bias for one's region, race, or political party. MPs should keep in their hearts that they are working for the benefit of the people, the union and the nation.

We must welcome every political party and organization that raises questions, motions and legal amendments or proposals that benefit all the citizens.

and legal amendments or proposals that benefit all the citizens. We must be objective in our discussions. Enacting laws or amending existing laws to bring about a democratic federal union is the duty of MPs in looking out for the people that elected them.

The tenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw managed to pass 9 of the 26 bills it discussed into law. There are still 30 bills left for the Hluttaws to discuss. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted four laws including the Second Law Amending the Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits. They are carrying out other functions and discussed future processes and numerous projects beneficial for the public.

Therefore, as the legislative pillar is the main blood vessel of a democratic union, MPs discussing or debating laws and other topics important to the nation and its people should remember to uphold fairness, equality and compassion so that they bring out the true essence of a free and independent democratic nation.

Be Alert, Be Brave, Be Diligent and Be Vigilant in Safeguarding Myanmar's Independence

By Htun Tin Htun

IT is learnt from the Global New Light of Myanmar issued on 24th December 2018 that the 71st Anniversary Independence Day National Objectives are as follow: 1. All National Ethnic Races to defend and protect with "collective strength" to ensure Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the Unity of National Ethnic Races and Perpetuation of the National Sovereignty; 2. For the emergence of a Democratic Federal Union, to strive towards creating a suitable Constitution for the State in accordance with democratic standards; 3. To effectively combat and protect against the use of drugs and narcotic substances which can harm and erode the health and character of all citizens; 4. To continuously strive with determined effort for the balanced and equitable development of all states and regions; and 5. To assist from all fronts the Union Government's efforts for private sector development and the emergence of a fully-developed market economy. The editorial team of the GNLM also wrote several editorial and opinion on the importance of independence since last week and described many articles hailing 71st Anniversary Independence Day.

Buddhists all over the world are taught by their monks and instructors to follow the universal Dhamma or cardinal virtues of safeguarding the planet such as shame to do evil and fear to do evil. Eternal liberty, justice, equality and peace can be attained through the practice of insight meditation as it aims to achieve inner-peace of an individual in this planet.

Always be alert, brave, careful, diligent, efficient, faithful, good, honest, industrious, joyful, knowledgeable, loyal, mindful, nice, obedient, pure, qualified, resilient, strengthened, thoughtful, united, vigilant, wise, excellent, youthful and zealous in safeguarding our Independence. Liberty is of paramount importance for all human beings in this world and it is also the basic human right. Easy to do are things that are bad and harmful to oneself; but exceedingly difficult to do are things that are good and beneficial. Regaining lost sovereignty, territorial integrity and liberty is meant independence



A military band performs during the flag-raising ceremony for the 70th anniversary of the country's Independence Day at the Independence Monument in the Maha Bando Park in Yangon on 3 January, 2018. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

in generally speaking and take the lessons from the Myanmar's history how the patriots fought against the imperialists and fascists. There are several countries in this world at present which face a constant threat of war and terrorist attacks and therefore these non-peaceful countries cannot be said to be enjoying full independence.

Building a democracy which guarantees rights for all national citizens is of great importance and in fact building a democracy means building a culture. Essential requisites for an independent and sovereign nation are mutual respect, mutual understanding, freedom, peace, human rights, and equity and equality to the people which can be brought by the genuine democracy for which Myanmar is transitioning.

Be united and brave for the protection and preservation of our independence and sovereignty and independence and sovereignty are intertwined together at all time and sovereignty is permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, inalienable, absolute and unified. Right understanding, right thinking, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration are eight in one unique path Myanmar citizens should follow to

safeguard the independence and sovereignty of nation. As there was no peace since the time we gained independence in 1948 (about 71 years), there was no stability, and we lagged behind in many areas of development and as a result Myanmar became one of the least developed countries. Very sad to mention here that just after three months after regaining the independence in the nation, the brethren who fought the imperialists and fascists together as band of brothers turned their weapons against each other and killed, leaving behind death, destruction and untold miseries, adding with misery and remorse. Even today, Myanmar is struggling to escape from the trap of poverty and armed

conflicts and great efforts will be needed if we are to catch up with the rest of the world and therefore the people of the Union of Myanmar have been waiting for almost 71 years for a better and bright future and we believe that only peace can help make our dreams come true.

Be awakened, mindful and diligent in building peace, making national reconciliation and safeguarding the independence. Exchanging and sharing loving-kindness between two sides could be termed and expressed as genuine principles of democracy

which is expounded and defined by the political pundits.

Discipline (character/morality) is power and we need disciplined people in the nation to protect and preserve the independence. It is our duty to protect

and enlarged, things move into the harm's way and wreak havoc. Endurance, forbearance and tolerance are in fact the genuine loving-kindness. Nothing is impossible to Myanmar citizens with wish-to-do, work hard (effort), will

Even today, Myanmar is struggling to escape from the trap of poverty and armed conflicts, and great efforts will be needed if we are to catch up to the rest of the world ...

and preserve the nation for posterity which is our historical duty and obligation. Loving-kindness, compassion, sympathetic (altruistic/appreciative) joy and equanimity are four universal cardinal virtues (Brahma Vihara) and guarding principles for the world's eternal peace and prosperity. It can be said that the genuine principles of democracy is about sharing and entrusting loving-kindness, friendship and ties of closer relations and the loving-kindness is tantamount to peace. Greed, anger and ignorance usually skirt the spirit and soul of all human beings in this mundane world and when these three bad elements are broaden

(mind) and wisdom. The independence is indeed very hard to achieve, but losing the liberty is a matter of disunity and lack of patriotism for which the new generation is to draw lessons from history. Although the Union of Myanmar has not enjoyed peace fully, it is fortunate that conditions here are better than some other countries. No one can deny the fact that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is an independent and sovereign nation but the peace still eludes the nation.

Due to the armed conflicts in remote and far flung areas in the country, the sound of gun fire still threatens the people in these

areas and leaves them behind.

Be enthusiastic, cooperative and vigilant in protecting, preserving and safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of the nation. Efforts need to be systematically and collectively prepared and enhanced to strengthen the protective and safeguarding power of the nation in case of emergency.

Victory begets enmity, the defeated dwell in pain; happily the peaceful live, discarding both victory and defeat. Indeed the independence is fragile beauty of a nation that could lose easily but regaining independence back was undeniably very difficult. Guard well your thoughts, speeches and actions. It is imperative that all of us unite to safeguard the independence we have gained through blood, sweat and tears and find peaceful, diplomatic solutions to achieve our wishes and desires. Let none find fault with others; let none see the omissions and commissions of others; but let one see one's own speeches and acts, done and undone. Armed conflicts, whether on a large or a small scale, affect a nation's development and are by no means beneficial and therefore we must work together towards resolving issues politically at the negotiations table diplomatically. Nations across the Globe value their independence and sovereignty and all nations have, at some point, made sacrifices, taken great risks and struggled to attain or protect their independence through their collective will, strength and effort of their people. The image of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the World Map is adorable which is the outcome and result that stand out as national heritage through the sacrifices with flesh, blood and bone of our ancestors.

We, all national citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, must therefore collectively, cooperatively and collaboratively in unity be alert, brave, diligent and vigilant in safeguarding our independence.

May you all be free from all dangers, enmity and aversions! May you all be free from physical pains and mental sorrows and sufferings!! May you all be long-lived, healthy, happy, wealthy, peaceful, and prosperous in the months to come!!! Wishing all of you a Very Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year 2019!!!!

71st Anniversary Independence Day National Objectives

1. All National Ethnic Races to defend and protect with "collective strength" to ensure Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the Unity of National Ethnic Races and Perpetuation of National Sovereignty.
2. For the emergence of a Democratic Federal Union, to strive towards creating a suitable Constitution for the State in accordance with democratic standards.
3. To effectively combat and protect against the use of drugs and narcotic substances which can harm and erode the health and character of all citizens.
4. To continuously strive with determined effort for the balanced and equitable development of all states and regions.
5. To assist from all fronts the Union Government's efforts for private sector development and the emergence of a fully-developed market economy.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 29th December, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 30th December, 2018: Rain will be fairly widespread in Shan State and isolated in Naypyitaw, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

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 isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Naypyitaw, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th December, 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th December, 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th December, 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (14) miles east of Mawlaik), latitude 23.64 °N, longitude 94.62 °E, depth (89) kilometers about (44) miles southeast of Tamu seismological observatory was recorded at (05)hr (42)min (35)sec M.S.T. on 29th December, 2018.

Trump says build US-Mexico wall or he'll seal border

WASHINGTON (United States)—President Donald Trump threatened Friday to seal the US-Mexico border “entirely” if Congress does not approve billions of dollars in funding for a wall. In a burst of early morning tweets, the president said the alternative to funding his controversial wall project would be total separation from Mexico—including making US car companies pull out their factories based on the other side of the frontier. The threat yet again upped the ante in a political row that has led to a partial shutdown of the US government and seems set to dominate the start to the third year of Trump’s presidency. “We will be forced to close the Southern Border entirely if the Obstructionist Democrats do not give us the money to finish the Wall,” Trump tweeted.

Trump said he would then take US-Mexican relations back to the days before the NAFTA agreement opened free trade across Canada, Mexico and the United States. That would “bring our car industry back into the United States where it belongs,” he said. It was not clear how separating the two huge neighbors would work. Bilateral trade totaled an estimated \$615.9 billion in 2017, according to US government figures. Neither did Trump make any mention of the new free



US President Donald Trump’s threat to seal the Mexico border upped the ante in a political row over immigrant that prompted a partial shutdown of the US government. **PHOTO: AFP**

trade agreement, known as the USMCA, which he only recently signed with the two neighboring countries to replace NAFTA and which he has repeatedly praised as a huge boost for American commerce. In Mexico, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador sidestepped Trump’s threat, telling journalists: “We don’t want to be imprudent and we don’t think we should get into this.”

\$5 billion question

Trump wants \$5 billion in funding for a wall along the more than 2,000-mile border, which he says is currently too porous to stop illegal immigration and which he claims has become a magnet for criminals, drugs and even terrorists. Opponents—es-

pecially in the Democratic party but also some in Trump’s Republican party—say that a physical wall is impractical and that the idea is being used as a political tool to whip up xenophobia in Trump’s right-wing voter base.

Both sides have dug in. Democrats refuse to approve funding and the president—who has made hardline immigration policies a centerpiece of his presidency—has retaliated by refusing to sign off on a wider spending bill, leaving some 800,000 federal employees without pay.

Negotiations on lifting that partial government shutdown, perhaps by providing some border security funding, have sputtered out and no new debate is scheduled before next Wednes-

day. The president, who had already scrapped a Christmas visit to his Florida golf resort, has also “canceled his plans for New Year’s,” his incoming chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, said on Fox News. Asked about the startling rhetoric, Mulvaney told Fox that Trump “is trying to draw light to the fact this is a crazy discussion to be having.” For one Republican Congress member, Brad Wenstrup, the paralysis over the wall reflected “a lot of political posturing.” “I would hope that it could be ended soon,” he told CNN television. “If you sit down and talk about that, why is that such a hard thing to do?”

Caravan ‘invasion’

Experts are divided on solutions to policing the long, often inhospitable border separating the world’s biggest economy from the far poorer countries to its south.

Although there is a huge cross-border drug trade and immigrants often enter illegally, others have genuine claims for asylum. Central Americans are also deeply integrated in the US economy, often performing physically demanding, low-pay jobs in construction, agriculture and other vital sectors. Trump has consistently painted the asylum seekers and economic migrants

in outlandish terms, raising the specter of rapists, gang members and people with infectious diseases roaming freely across the border.

Trump has latched particularly on to what have become known as the “caravans”—groups of several hundred or even more migrants who make epic treks across Central America and Mexico to try to reach the United States. According to Trump, the “caravans” amount to organized attempts at invading the United States. In one tweet Friday, Trump warned: “word is that a new Caravan is forming in Honduras and they are doing nothing about it.” As a result, he said, “we will be cutting off all aid” to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

The impoverished, often dangerous countries have long received American assistance to boost democracy, human rights, education and security. But according to State Department figures, the aid is already dropping steeply. Honduras is currently set to receive \$65.7 million in 2019, down from \$105.6 million in 2017, while Guatemala is slated for \$69.4 million, down from \$145 million. El Salvador received \$88 million in 2017 and is set for \$45.7 million next year.—AFP ■

Palestinian killed by Israeli fire: Gaza ministry

GAZA CITY—A Palestinian man was killed Friday by Israeli fire during protests and clashes near the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, the health ministry in the coastal enclave said. Karam Fayyad, 26, was killed east of the Gaza city of Khan Yunis, ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra told AFP.

Eight other Palestinians were wounded by live fire during clashes with Israeli soldiers along the border, Qudra added. Around 5,000 Palestinians demonstrated on Friday along various parts of the border between Gaza and Israel, a spokeswoman for the Israeli army said. The protesters threw stones at the soldiers and also hurled explosive devices which fell on the Gaza side of the border, the spokeswoman said. Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have held often violent protests backed by its Islamist rulers Hamas since March 30. Protesters are calling for Palestinian refugees to be allowed to return to their former homes now inside Israel.—AFP ■



A Palestinian protester prepares to throw back a tear gas canister during demonstrations and clashes with Israeli forces at near the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel on 28 December 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Spain moves to extend statute of limitations for child abuse

MADRID (Spain)—Spain’s cabinet approved a draft law on Friday which will extend the statute of limitations for cases of physical or sexual abuse of children.

Under the bill the statute of limitations for these types of crimes would begin when the victim turns 30, instead of 18 as it currently stands under Spanish law, the government said in a statement.

Campaigners have long argued that many victims take years to digest the abuse they have suffered and report them, meaning that in many cases the offenders cannot be prosecuted.

The proposed change to the criminal code, which still has to be approved by parliament, would affect sexual crimes, physical abuse, human trafficking and attempted mur-



Under the bill, the statute of limitations for cases of physical or sexual abuse of children would begin with the victim turns 30, instead of 18 as it currently stands under Spanish law. **PHOTO: AFP**

der. The bill also includes “a broad definition of violence that encompasses any type of physical, emotional or psychological abuse, including corporal punishment or neglect,” the statement added.

The proposed law also includes new crimes committed online such as incitement to

commit suicide, commit sexual crimes or encourage bulimia or other eating disorders.

The government also said it plans to tighten the rules granting conditional release or temporary exit permits from jail for people serving time for sexual assaults against minors.—AFP ■

‘We’re not in crisis’: New Saudi foreign minister takes the reins

RIYADH (Saudi Arabia)—Saudi Arabia’s new foreign minister struck a note of defiance Friday in the face of international outrage over critic Jamal Khashoggi’s murder, denying the kingdom was in crisis and that his predecessor had been demoted.

Ibrahim al-Assaf, a former veteran finance minister who was briefly detained last year in what Riyadh said was an anti-corruption sweep, replaced Adel al-Jubeir as foreign minister in a major government shake-up on Thursday ordered by King Salman.

The surprise reshuffle was seen partly as an attempt to elevate the kingdom’s marginalised old guard, adding a veneer of checks and balances to the policy decisions of 33-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who faces intense global scrutiny over the 2 October murder of journalist Khashoggi.

But speaking to AFP in his first interview since his appointment, Assaf insisted the restructuring was motivated not by the Khashoggi affair, but the need to make the government machinery more efficient. “The issue of Jamal Khashoggi... really saddened us, all of us,” Assaf told AFP at his residence in Riyadh, adorned with mahogany furniture, a wall-mounted elephant tusk and other hunting trophies.

“But all in all, we are not going through a crisis, we are going through a transformation,” he added, referring to social and economic reforms spearheaded by the crown prince.



Ibrahim al-Assaf, the new Saudi foreign minister, denied the kingdom was in crisis and that his predecessor had been demoted, speaking to AFP at his residence in the Saudi capital Riyadh. **PHOTO: AFP**

Combative foreign policy

Assaf, 69, inherits the ministry after a series of combative foreign policy moves by the crown prince, who along with regional allies imposed a blockade on neighbouring Qatar, launched a military campaign in Yemen and engaged in a bitter diplomatic row with Canada.

Topping it all, Khashoggi’s murder in Saudi Arabia’s Istanbul consulate by what it calls “rogue” agents is testing relations with key ally Washington, particularly after a US Senate resolution recently held Prince Mohammed responsible for the killing. When asked whether his biggest foreign policy challenge was to repair the kingdom’s tarnished reputation, Assaf replied: “I wouldn’t say ‘repair’ because the relationship between my country and a vast majority of countries in the world is in excellent shape.”

Before him, Jubeir also sought to vigorously defend the government and the crown prince, widely known as MBS, on the international stage over

Khashoggi’s murder.

In Thursday’s reshuffle, Jubeir was appointed minister of state for foreign affairs, fueling speculation that he had been demoted after he failed to quell global criticism over Khashoggi.

“This is far from the truth,” Assaf said. Jubeir’s new role, he insisted, was tantamount to a division of labour and not a demotion, in a bid to accelerate the task of remaking a ministry known to be overly bureaucratic. “Adel represented Saudi Arabia and will continue to represent Saudi Arabia... around the world,” Assaf said. “We complement each other.” Jubeir was not immediately reachable for comment.

‘Checks and balances’

A seasoned bureaucrat, Assaf was briefly held in Riyadh’s Ritz-Carlton hotel last year along with hundreds of elite princes and businessmen, in what the government called a crackdown on corruption. Saudi officials say he was released after being cleared of any wrongdoing, and he sub-

sequently led a government delegation to the World Economic Forum in Davos earlier this year.

His reappointment to a cabinet role indicates the government is seeking to slowly “rehabilitate” the experienced old guard, widely seen to be sidelined by the young prince, observers say.

“King Salman is seeking to bolster his son by appointing seasoned technocrats like Assaf who are not from MBS’s inner circle, indirectly reinstating an internal system of checks and balances that was swept away in (MBS’s) drive to consolidate power,” said Becca Wasser. “Adding experienced government hands from an older generation, will serve to check some of MBS’s impulses,” the policy analyst at the US-based RAND Corporation told AFP.

The elevation of seasoned allies in Thursday’s reshuffle has bolstered the authority of Prince Mohammed after the removal of younger aides in his inner circle implicated in Khashoggi’s murder, including former royal court advisor Saud al-Qahtani.

Assaf, who is on the boards of state oil giant Aramco and the vast Public Investment Fund, said his appointment as the top diplomat would help bring his financial experience to foreign affairs amid a current “dip” in the economy.

The top crude exporter, facing a sharp fall in oil prices, is scrambling to restore confidence in foreign investors rattled by a series of what many see as rash foreign policy decisions. “Economic relationships now dominate foreign” affairs, Assaf said. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump advisor heads to Turkey, Israel after Syria pullout

WASHINGTON (United States)—US national security advisor John Bolton said Friday he would visit Turkey and Israel to coordinate on Syria, after President Donald Trump’s decision to withdraw all US forces. Bolton said he would head in January to both Turkey—which has enthusiastically backed Trump’s sudden move—as well as Israel, a close US ally where the pullout has caused concern. “We will discuss our continued work confronting security challenges facing allies and partners in the region, including the next phase of the fight against ISIS, as the US begins to bring troops home from Syria,” Bolton tweeted. —AFP ■

Two Thai cave rescue divers on UK honours list

LONDON (United Kingdom)—A team of British divers who helped save a junior football team stranded in a flooded cave in Thailand were awarded in Britain’s traditional New Year Honours alongside former supermodel Twiggy and Monty Python’s Michael Palin. The seven underwater specialists involved in the remarkable rescue were also joined on the prestigious annual achievement list—announced on Friday—by Hollywood filmmaker Christopher Nolan, Jim Carter from “Downton Abbey”, best-selling author Philip Pullman and leading Brexiteer lawmaker John Redwood. —AFP ■

7 killed in road accident in northern India

NEW DELHI—At least seven people were killed and four others injured on Saturday when a speeding vehicle hit two cars in northern Indian state of Haryana, police said. The accident took place in Ambala district, about 45 km south of Chandigarh, the capital city of Haryana. “In the wee hours today seven people, including two minors, were killed and four others injured after their cars were hit by an unidentified vehicle on Ambala-Chandigarh highway here,” a police official in Ambala said. “We are being told the cars had stopped on road and the vehicle hit them from behind,” the police added. —Xinhua ■

China customs gives green light for US rice imports



US rice that meets inspection and quarantine requirements will be allowed to enter the country, according to a notice by China’s customs authority. **PHOTO: AFP**

BEIJING (China)—China’s customs administration announced Friday it had approved US rice imports, a move that comes during a 90-day tariff truce between the two countries which are engaged in a bruising trade war. US rice that meets inspection and quarantine requirements will be allowed to enter the country, according to a notice by China’s customs authority released Friday and dated 27 December. Requirements for US rice exporters include registration with the US Department of Agriculture and adherence to US and Chinese phytosanitary laws and regulations.

The approval comes more than

a year after the two countries agreed on a phytosanitary protocol that would allow US rice imports in China for the first time. Relations between China and the US have continued to thaw following a truce agreed by both leaders on the sidelines of the G20 in Buenos Aires. Earlier this month, China’s major state-owned grain stockpiler said it had resumed buying US soybeans, and Beijing announced it would suspend extra tariffs added to US-made cars and auto parts starting 1 January. On Thursday, China said that trade negotiators from China and the US are planning to meet in January for talks. —AFP ■

Bomb kills three Vietnamese tourists, guide near Egypt pyramids

GIZA (Egypt)—Three Vietnamese holidaymakers and an Egyptian tour guide were killed Friday when a roadside bomb blast hit their bus as it travelled close to the Giza pyramids outside Cairo, officials said.

A statement by the public prosecutor's office said 11 other tourists from Viet Nam and an Egyptian bus driver were wounded when the homemade device exploded.

The improvised explosive device was placed near a wall along the Mariyutiya Street in Al-Haram district near the Giza Pyramids, it said.

The bus was carrying a total of 16 people including 14 Vietnamese tourists, an Egyptian driver and a tour guide, according to the statement.

Armed security personnel quickly deployed to



This picture taken on 28 December 2018 shows the scene of an attack on a tourist bus near the Giza Pyramids outside Cairo. **PHOTO: AFP**

the site and cordoned off the area for inspection.

The white tourist bus could be seen with its windows shattered and surrounded by soot-covered debris. Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli visited the injured tourists in hos-

pital, where he announced that the tour guide had died from his wounds. Madbouli urged against "amplifying" the incident as he insisted that "no country in the world can guarantee that its 100 per cent safe".

"It's possible at times

that an individual incident takes place here or there," he told journalists.

"We have to know that it's possible that it would be repeated in the future."

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast. —AFP ■

6.9-magnitude quake hits Philippines triggering small tsunami

MANILA (Philippines)—A 6.9-magnitude earthquake struck off the Philippine island of Mindanao on Saturday triggering a tsunami warning, with small waves expected to hit southern parts of the country and neighbouring Indonesia. The quake struck south-east of Davao City at a depth of 59 kilometres (35 miles), the US Geological Survey said, a week after a volcano-triggered tsunami killed more than 400 people in Indonesia. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said "hazardous tsunami waves from this earthquake are possible" along the coasts of Indonesia and the Philippines.

However, waves were forecast to be less than 30 cm (12 inches) high, it said, while Philippine monitors warned that "minor sea level disturbances" were

to be expected. "People are advised to stay away from the beach and not to go to the coast fronting the Philippine Sea," for about two hours, the Philippines' government seismology office said in its tsunami warning.

It said cities in the south of the country felt "moderately strong" shaking but civil defence offices in the affected areas said they had no immediate reports of damage or casualties from the quake. According to the USGS, there was a low likelihood of casualties and damage, although it warned recent earthquakes in the area had caused landslides.

The Philippines and Indonesia lie on the so-called Ring of Fire, a vast Pacific Ocean region where many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. —AFP ■

Canadian teacher detained in China is freed

OTTAWA (Canada)—A Canadian teacher arrested in China for administrative reasons—a case officially unrelated to the ongoing diplomatic row between Beijing and Ottawa—has been freed, authorities said Friday. Global Affairs Canada "confirms that a Canadian citizen, who was detained in China in December, was released and has now returned to Canada," spokesman Richard Walker said, without providing further details.

The arrest of Sarah McIver, a teacher accused of working illegally in China, was announced shortly after that of two other Canadian nationals: former diplomat Michael Kovrig, employed by think tank International Crisis Group (ICG), and Michael Spavor, a consultant on North Korea. The two men, whom China arrested on 10 December, were detained on suspicion of "harm to national security"—a phrase often used by Beijing when alleging espionage. —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SEA CORAL VOY NO. (104)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SEA CORAL VOY NO. (104) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ECL(S'PORE)**

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178

Mandalay region Government Mandalay City Development Committee Invitation for Open Tender

1. Open Tenders are invited local and International Companies for long term rental of Mandalay Convention Centre, located on Theik Pan Road, between 69th and 70th Street, managed by Mandalay City Development Committee.
2. Tenders will be processed as follows:
 - (a) Date of Sale of tender forms (7-1-2019)
 - (b) Closing date and time for submission of tenders (25-1-2019)(12:00)hrs
 - (c) Venue of opening tender (Meeting Hall, MCDC)
 - (d) Date and Time of opening tender (28-1-2019)(09:00)hrs
3. Tender forms will cost kyats (50000) and detailed information shall be available at Administration Department of MCDC with contact ph no: +952 4064750.

Tenders committee

Mandalay City Development Committee

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1095 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1095 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (006 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (006 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1003 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1003 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

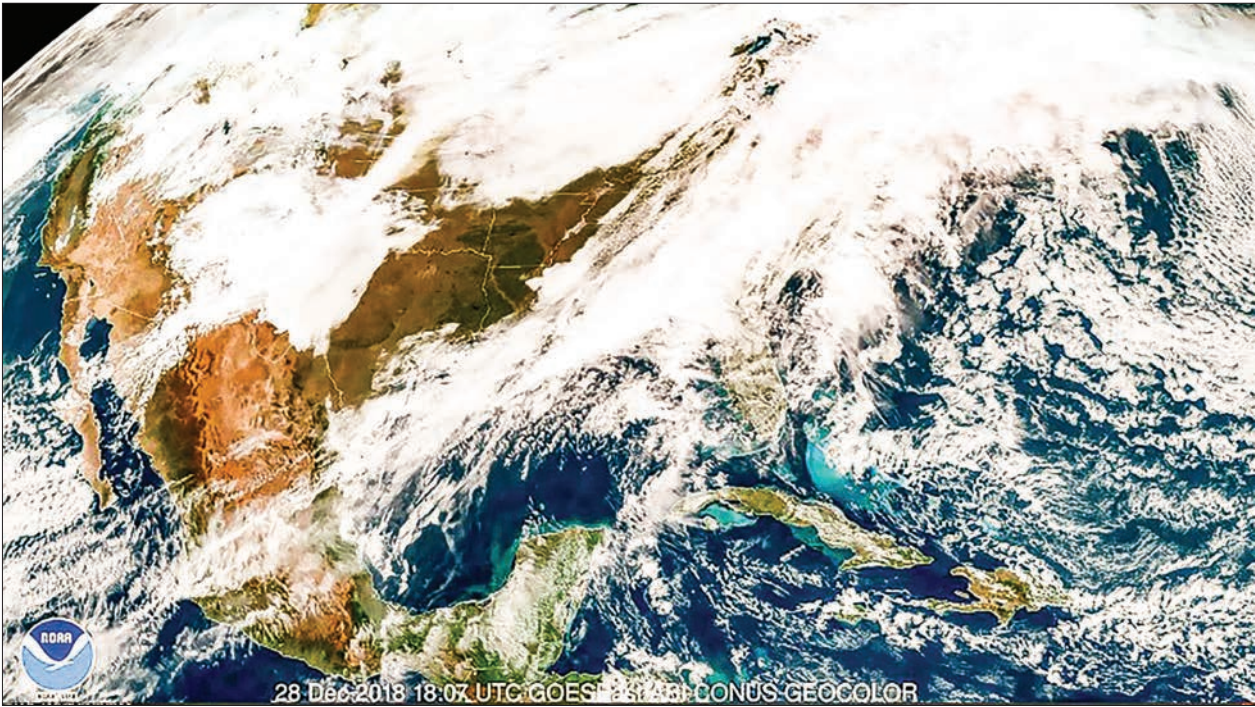
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OCEAN NETWORK ESPRESS
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

Winter storms batter large swaths of US

CHICAGO (United States)—At least three deaths were attributed to severe weather in the US as heavy snow and high winds snarled air and ground transportation during a busy holiday travel period. More than 500 flight cancellations and 5,700 delays were reported Friday as the winter storm blanketed areas from the north central plains and the Midwest with eight to 12 inches (20-30 centimeters) of snow.

As much snow, if not more, was forecast to fall in the coming days in the southwestern state of New Mexico, along with a deluge of rain in some southern and eastern states—ruining New Year travel plans for thousands of Americans. Millions more in the South were warned of potential flooding from heavy rains. A 58-year-old woman in Louisiana was killed Wednesday evening when lightning struck a tree, which then fell on her home, according to TV station WDSU. In Kansas, police said icy roads caused a fatal car crash



This 28 December, 2018 satellite image obtained courtesy of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows severe weather—heavy snow and high winds—in the US Midwest. PHOTO: AFP

Thursday on an interstate highway. Another crash involving a snow plow and a car in North Dakota claimed one life.

More than 6,500 flights were delayed and some 800 more were canceled on Thursday, according to the flight tracking website FlightAware. Some airline passengers reported being

stranded for days. “I didn’t want to spend three days in the airport, missing out on the holidays—New Year’s and all that,” Anthony Scott told Texas television station KDFW at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. “I have to go back to work the first of the year. So this is my time,” he said. “This was my little vaca-

tion. I’m not trying to spend it in the airport.”

Road travel treacherous

Numerous roads were closed Thursday in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Kansas and Iowa. Ground crews worked to clear affected areas, but many remained packed with snow and ice

Friday. The South Dakota Department of Transportation said advisories warning against travel remained in effect. “Roads are icy, blowing snow is still limiting visibility,” the agency said. “Crews are working but mother nature is making safe travel tough.”

North Dakota on Friday lifted a no-travel advisory

that had been issued for the entire east side of the state, even as drifting snow continued to frustrate drivers. National Weather Service (NWS) officials in Minnesota cautioned that roads in the upper Midwestern state were cloaked in snow. The weather service predicted the treacherous weather would continue through the weekend across the country. Heavy snow was expected in the southwestern state of New Mexico from a new storm, with as much as 18 inches possible, NWS said. To the south, heavy rains were forecast in the central Gulf Coast, in the Florida Panhandle, and stretching east to the mid-Atlantic. A risk of flash flooding was possible in a few areas. The nasty weather was still no match for a colossal blizzard that smothered the eastern United States in January 2016. That storm shut down New York and Washington, leaving 15 people dead and impacting some 85 million residents. —AFP ■

Galapagos bans fireworks to protect unique wildlife

QUITO (Ecuador)—Fireworks have been banned on the Galapagos Islands to protect the archipelago’s unique fauna, the local government said on Friday.

The local council said in a statement that it had agreed “unanimously a resolution that prohibits the importation, sale, distribution and use of fireworks or pyrotechnics in the Galapagos province.”

Those fireworks that produce light but no noise have been excluded from the ban. The islands are home to thousands of residents as well as being a



A Galapagos marine iguana, pictured in January 2018, sunbathes next to tourists at Tortuga Bay beach on Santa Cruz Island. PHOTO: AFP

tourist destination, and the measure comes just days before New Year celebrations in which many people traditionally set off fireworks. “Ecosystems as

sensitive as the Galapagos Islands are affected (by fireworks), principally its fauna that is unique,” said the council. It also wants to avoid any potential dete-

rioration in air quality or pollution of water sources. Animals have suffered from elevated heart rates, nervous stress and anxiety, which have “notably” changed their behavior and affected the survival of species inhabiting this World Heritage Site that belongs to Ecuador.

“This is a gift to conservation for Ecuador and the world,” Lorena Tapia, president of the local council, said on her Twitter account. A campaign to limit the use of fireworks on the Galapagos Islands was launched in 2017. —AFP ■

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Government of Mandalay Region Mandalay City Development Committee Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI)

1. The Buildings on the 3.1672 acre land owned by MCDC (Former Nadi Myanmar Hotel, 62nd Street, Between 36th & 37th Street, Maha Aung Myay Township Mandalay) are to be upgraded. Call for tender with PPP will be made for the implementation of Mix-Used Development project including business infrastructure, investment and services. Therefore, those who are interested, local companies or consortium cooperating with foreign entrepreneurs are invited to submit EOI.
2. The entrepreneurs who are interested will be charged 500000 kyats for EOI application form to credit account number D-2 (3.5.2) Yandanarpon Bank limited. Then forms for EOI are available at cleansing department-
(i) EOI forms can be taken from 26-12-2018 to 20-1-2019
(ii) Last date for the submission of EOI form is 21-2-2019 at 16:30 (during office hour)
(iii) Address- Cleansing Department
Mandalay City Development Committee
19th Street, 63rd Street
Second floor of Nanshae Market
Ph-02-4072003
Mandalay City Development Committee

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

We, **AKA YAZAR CO.,LTD**, would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by **BAILING AGRO-CHEMICAL CO., LTD** (China) to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), from former distributor **MARGA MIN CO.,LTD**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

AKA YAZAR CO.,LTD. Ph-Q455557863, 09455557864

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Number	Registration Type
1	Awar 83.1 WP	Niclosamide Olamine Salt 83.1 %WP	P201 7-3554	Provisional
2	Binhsin 70 % WP	Thiophanate-methyl 70 % WP	P2017-3558	Provisional



Bringing the famous lanterns of Zigong, Sichuan, to the French town of Gaillac has paid off for the local mayor. PHOTO: AFP

Chinese lanterns dazzle in ancient French town

GAILLAC (France)—As darkness falls each winter night in the little French town of Gaillac, the glow of dusk is replaced with another—that of a thousand colourful Chinese silk lanterns.

The thousand-year-old town in the southwestern Tarn region, known for its wines, was not the most obvious place to launch what it trumpets as “the biggest Chinese event in France.” But Gaillac happens to be twinned with Zigong, a city in China’s Sichuan province which is famous for its lantern festival. For the second winter running Gaillac has transformed into a miniature version of its Sichuan twin, lighting up nightly with a dazzling array of giant lanterns in the form of dragons, flowers, birds and pandas. Among the delighted spectators was a 90-year-old who gave her name as Simone, taking photographs of the imperial palace stretching 75 metres (250 feet) long.

“I want to show my grandchildren all these wonders from another world,” she said.

Gaillac’s Mayor Patrice

Gausserand was on a trip to China in February 2017 when the idea of twinning with a Chinese town was born.

“I naturally turned towards Sichuan province, which is twinned with our Occitanie region,” Gausserand said. “And that’s how I found Zigong.”

Bringing the famous lanterns to Gaillac was “a mad gamble”, he said.

Zigong’s own festival, in February, has been running for centuries and attracts millions of visitors each year.

In Gaillac, a town of 18,000, Gausserand had to find private sponsors to cover the costs, and he wasn’t even sure if people would come.

But 250,000 people attended last year’s inaugural edition—an “enormous surprise” to town authorities which brought a windfall of one million euros (\$1.15 million).

China-mania

This year the mayor expects even more to flood in—by 15 December, the town had already sold

three times as many tickets than at the same time in 2017. “The festival creates a strong bond between town staff, volunteers and about 80 Chinese workers who come to Gaillac for two months to put up the lanterns,” he said.

Shop windows, hairdressers, bars and residents’ balconies all have red lanterns and dragons on display at a time of year when most French stores sport Christmas decorations.

Chinese fever has also reached the bookshop, which has filled its window with fiction, graphic novels and tourist guides on China. Extra footfall from the festival, which runs from 1 December until 6 February, is a huge boost for local hotels, restaurants and shops. For Marion Duclot, a senior official in the Gaillac Graulhet local authority, the visitors are especially welcome in a season when the regional economy is “usually flat”.

And local landlords are celebrating too—the Tarn villa rental association is delighted by a doubling in winter bookings over the past two years.—AFP ■

Finnish city to celebrate New Year with laser show amid rising firework ban demand

HELSINKI—While the public voice for banning fireworks is rising, the city of Espoo in southern Finland will be the first city in the country to celebrate the New Year with laser light show instead of firecrackers, media reported on Friday.

In Finland, New Year is usually celebrated with fireworks provided by municipalities, but this is thought to be old-fashioned by the city of Espoo, Lea Rintala, director of Culture Services Unit of

Espoo, told Finnish national broadcaster Yle.

“We are a sustainable development city and rockets don’t really suit well with that. However, over the years we have received some feedback about this, so we are now trialing a laser show,” Rintala was quoted as saying.

She added that the news of the alternative to fireworks has already generated a surprising amount of interest.—Xinhua ■

The new black: Young Spanish designers reclaim traditions

MADRID (Spain)—Young Spanish designers are reclaiming their “Spanishness”: age-old traditions, religious imagery and even the colour black, which centuries ago was a signature of the country’s all-powerful monarchy.

That is one of the messages at the “Modus” exhibition currently running in Madrid, which explores the influence of Spanish history and tradition on global fashion, including up-and-coming designers.

“It’s a very important moment (for Spain) with designers like Palomo Spain, Leandro Cano, ManeMane, who are reclaiming Spain’s position in fashion,” says exhibition curator Raul Marina. “Young designers are making noise again, and they’re doing so via inspiration that is totally Spanish.”

Black and side hoops

Take black, a colour that has

ISEM Fashion Business School, writes in the exhibition booklet. And so it has continued. Foreign and Spanish designers like Cristobal Balenciaga embraced black in their creations and the younger guard are doing so too, in their own way.

On show at Madrid’s Sala Canal de Isabel II is ManeMane’s black bodice and skirt, complete with a hat typical of the southwestern region of Extremadura, where brand founder Miguel Becer comes from. The same century that Spain promoted black, it also created the “verdugado”, a structure worn under a skirt that held it into a fashionable shape. That fashion statement also spread Europe-wide. Later Spain unleashed another trend—the “guardainfante”, loosely translated as “infant-guard”, side hoops that extended the skirt at the sides.

“They said it hid ladies’ pregnancies,” says Marina. The



PHOTO: AFP

come to symbolise French chic as epitomised by Coco Chanel’s 1920s little black dress. Its use in fashion actually originated in 16th century Spain.

Before that, it had been a difficult colour to wear. After multiple washes or through constant use, the dye would just subside and turn into a greyish, brownish mush. But then Spain conquered the Americas, and more specifically Mexico in the 16th century.

There Spaniards discovered a tree called logwood. It held a secret—from its wood could be made an intense and lasting black dye. At the time, Spain was a major economic and political power. King Felipe II adopted that intense black as his own and the fashion statement soon spread. The monarchy was “a reference for all its European counterparts, as was its austere black gown which would become the expression of maximum elegance,” Amalia Descalzo, an expert in clothing history at Spain’s

quirky “guardainfante” was famously immortalised in painter Diego Velazquez’s masterpiece “Las Meninas.” That influence is visible in Juanjo Oliva’s yellow, bell-shaped velvet dress, on show in the exhibit.

Bullfighting, flamenco

Then come Spain’s world-famous exports—flamenco and bullfighting have inspired designers from other countries. A Givenchy bullfighting-style jacket made out of black velvet with arabesque-like red embroideries and pearls. A black Lanvin dress with a cascade of ruffles and cream-coloured polka dots inspired by southern Andalusia’s flamenco tradition. “It’s often said that internationally, foreign designers have soaked up and felt prouder about Spanishness than us,” says Marina. But that’s changing, he adds. Religion, tradition are making a comeback.—AFP ■

India to send three-person crew on landmark space mission

NEW DELHI (India)—India will send a three-member team into orbit for up to a week when it launches its first manned space mission expected in 2022, the government announced Friday.

Indian ministers approved \$1.4 billion to provide technology and infrastructure for the programme, according to a government statement.

The sum would make India's one of the cheapest manned space programmes, stepping up its space rivalry with China. But the statement said India also hopes to take part in "global" space projects.

India will become the fourth nation after Russia, the United States and China to send a manned mission into space.

Ministers approved financing to launch an Indian-developed craft into a "low earth orbit" for a duration ranging from one orbital period to a maximum of seven days, the statement said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in August that India will launch a manned space flight by 2022 with at least one astronaut. The cabinet had not approved the project however.

There will be two unmanned and one manned flights to launch the Gaganyaan (Sky-Vehicle) Programme, the statement said.

Without giving a date for the blast off, the government said the manned flight would be

"within 40 months" of Friday's meeting.

Modi has hailed the national space programme as a prestige project.

The government has stated that space flights will boost the economy, generate jobs and enhance capabilities in areas such as medicine, agriculture and fighting pollution.

A successful manned mission would allow India to become a "collaborating partner in future global space exploration initiatives with long term national benefits," said the statement.

The country has invested heavily in its space programme in the past decade.

The Indian Space Research Organisation announced in July that it planned to send an un-

manned mission to the moon in 2019.

India launched an orbiter to Mars in 2013 which is still operational and last year launched a record 104 satellites in one blast-off.

New Delhi is competing with other international players for a greater share of the satellite market, and hopes its low-cost space programme will give it an edge.

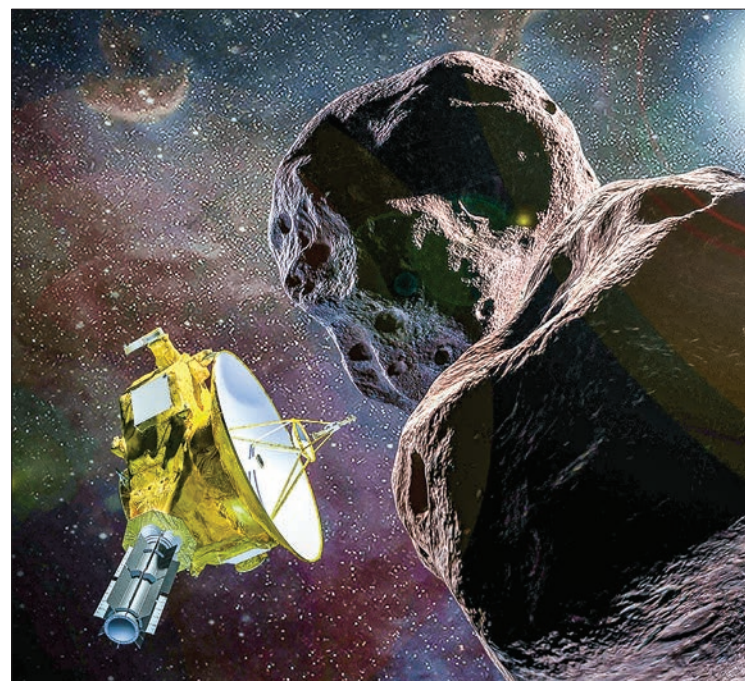
China put its first humans into space in 2003 but its Shenzhou programme cost more than \$2.3 billion.

Experts say the United States spent the equivalent of about \$110 billion at current values on preparatory flights and the mission to put the first man on the moon in 1969.—AFP ■



India will send a three-member team into space for up to a week when it launches its first manned mission expected in 2022, the government announced. **PHOTO: AFP**

NASA spaceship closes in on distant world



This artist's illustration obtained from NASA shows the New Horizons spacecraft encountering 2014 MU69 - nicknamed "Ultima Thule"—a Kuiper Belt object that orbits one billion miles beyond Pluto. **PHOTO: AFP**

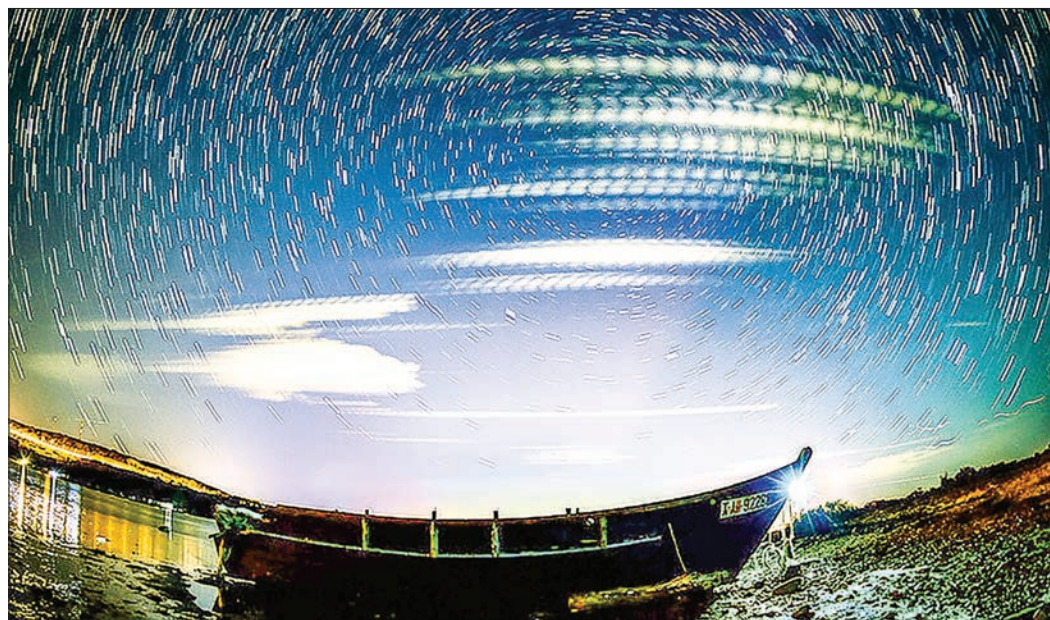
TAMPA (United States)—NASA's unmanned New Horizons spacecraft is closing in on its historic New Year's flyby target, the most distant world ever studied, a frozen relic of the solar system some four billion miles (6.4 billion kilometers) away. The cosmic object, known as Ultima Thule, is about the size of the US capital, Washington, and orbits in the dark and frigid Kuiper Belt about a billion miles beyond the dwarf planet, Pluto.

The spacecraft's closest approach to this primitive space rock comes 1 January at 12:33 am ET (0533 GMT). Until then, what it looks like, and what it is made of, remain a mystery.

"This is a time capsule that is going to take us back four and a half billion years to

the birth of the solar system," said Alan Stern, the principal investigator on the project at the Southwest Research Institute, during a press briefing Friday. A camera on board the New Horizons spacecraft is currently zooming in on Ultima Thule, so scientists can get a better sense of its shape and configuration—whether it is one object or several. "We've never been to a type of object like this before," said Kelsi Singer, New Horizons co-investigator at the Southwest Research Institute. About a day prior, "we will start to see what the actual shape of the object is," she said. The spacecraft entered "encounter mode" on 26 December, and is "very healthy," added Stern. —AFP ■

Sky watchers in Moscow to enjoy Quadrantid meteor shower, total lunar eclipse in January



Sky watchers in Moscow will be able to enjoy two spectacular celestial phenomena - the Quadrantid meteor shower peaking overnight to 4 January and a total lunar eclipse on 21 January. **PHOTO: TASS**

MOSCOW—Sky watchers in Moscow will be able to enjoy two spectacular celestial phenomena - the Quadrantid meteor shower peaking overnight to 4 January and a total lunar eclipse on 21 January, the Moscow city mayor's office said on its website on Friday.

The Quadrantid meteor shower, to peak on 3 to 4 January, with up to 120 fireballs seen per hour, takes its name from the constellation of Quadrans Muralis, which however was crossed out from the list of constellations compiled by the International Astronomical Union in 1922. But the meteor shower retained its name. The Quadrantids are associated with asteroid 2003EH orbiting around the Sun in 5.5 years. No special equip-

ment is needed to watch the meteor shower, only a clear sky.

"Each new year begins with a fireworks of the Quadrantid meteor shower beginning on 28 December and ending on 12 January. This year, it will reach its peak overnight to 4 January. It is a spectacular show, with bright fireballs lighting up the night sky, making a sky watcher think about falling stars," the mayor's office said.

Apart from that, a total lunar eclipse will occur on 21 January. It can be observed from 06:34 a.m. to 09:51 a.m. Moscow time, with the maximum eclipse happening at 08:12 a.m. Moscow time. Moon watchers may need binoculars or telescopes. —Tass ■



Myanmar U-22 national football team's goal keeper Soe Arkar takes part in the training session in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar U-22 football team prepares for international friendlies

TWENTY standout footballers make up the Myanmar U-22 national football team, which will compete during international football friendly matches in Oman and Qatar earlier next month, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The team, headed by head coach U Kyi Lwin, started training in Yangon yesterday.

The goalkeepers are Bhone Thitsar Min and Soe Arkar.

The eight defenders include Win Moe Kyaw, Soe Moe Kyaw, Zaw Htet Min, Kyaw Thu Tun, Ye Yint Aung, Zin Ye Naung, Aung Wunna Soe and Thet Paing Htwe.

The six midfielders are Min Ko Ko, Nan Htike Zaw, Yadana-bon FC star player Myat Kaung Khant, best youth player of the

year award winner Lwin Moe Aung, along with Soe Lwin Lwin and Hein Htet Aung.

The strikers are Myanmar youth football stars Win Naing Tun, Zin Min Tun, Htet Phyto Wai and Chan Nyein. Myanmar will play friendly away matches against Oman U-23 team on 7 January and Qatar U-23 on 10 January.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Actor Nay Htet Lin to be Vice Chairman of Rakhine United FC

WITH the aim of attracting more football fans and supporters for Rakhine United FC in the upcoming season, famed Myanmar actor Nay Htet Lin will help the team by taking the position of Vice Chairman, according to an official statement by Rakhine United FC.

"As I am a Rakhine ethnic person, I will help the football team, which is representing the Rakhine State. My duty is to help

attract more fans and supporters," said Nay Htet Lin.

"The main reason I want to take this position is to encourage youths across Rakhine State to become interested in playing football and to promote talented young footballers to become members of Myanmar National Team's footballer," he said.

Rakhine United Football Club is a professional football club, based in Rakhine State,

which plays in the Myanmar National League. Rakhine United FC stood 9th position in the previous season.

Currently, the team has already recruited three expatriate players to improve the team.

The team will be led by head coach U Than Wai.

In the upcoming 2019 season, the team will use Waytharli Stadium in Sittway as its home field.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Lakers guard Rondo out for a month

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Los Angeles Lakers veteran guard Rajon Rondo will be out of the lineup for a month after undergoing surgery on his right hand, the NBA team announced Friday. Rondo injured a ligament in his right ring finger during the Lakers' 127-101 win over the Golden State Warriors on Christmas. Rondo had 15 points, 10 assists

and five rebounds in the game. The Lakers said the surgery was a success but Rondo still has four to five weeks of rehabilitation to go.

"Rajon Rondo, who suffered a Grade 3 sprain to his right ring finger during Tuesday's game at Golden State, underwent successful surgery today to repair a ligament," the team said in a statement.

The Lakers are already without LeBron James, who injured his groin against the Warriors. James is not expected to need surgery, but the groin strain could cause him to miss several games, including Friday against the Los Angeles Clippers. The Lakers lost their first game without James on Thursday, a heartbreaking 117-116 defeat to the Sacramento Kings. —AFP ■

New Australian Open heat policy to counter oven-like conditions

MELBOURNE (Australia)—A new extreme heat policy that dictates when it is safe to play will be introduced at next month's Australian Open to better deal with frequent oven-like conditions on court.

The "Heat Stress Scale" will be used for the first time at a Grand Slam to help prevent players from fainting and suffering exhaustion, relying on more weather-measuring devices at Melbourne Park.

Organisers said it followed "cutting-edge research and testing into the specific effects of heat stress on tennis players".

New rules will allow for a 10-minute break between the second and third sets in women's singles matches when a four -- on a scale of one to five—is recorded on the HSS prior to or during the first two sets of a match.

Men will get a 10-minute breather after the third set if a four is reached.

If the heat stress scale goes to five, play can be suspended.

Tennis Australia chief medical officer Carolyn Broderick said the scale took into account the effects of heat on the human body including the maximum stress an athlete can safely withstand, the sweat rate of that person and their core temperature.

"The scale also accounts for the physiological variances between adults, wheelchair and junior athletes while also taking into account the four climate factors—air temperature, radiant heat or the strength of the sun, humidity and wind speed."

Previously, organisers could only activate the extreme heat policy and halt play or close roofs when the temperature exceeded 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) and the Bureau of Meteorology's wet bulb globe temperature index -- which is used to estimate heat stress in humans—hit 32.5 Celsius.

Suffocating weather at Melbourne Park has caused serious problems with players in the past.

Among those suffering at the 2018 tournament was Gael Monfils, with fears for his health in a mid-afternoon match against Novak Djokovic.

The Frenchman, known as one of the fittest players on tour, looked dazed and confused in his second set and eventually received medical assistance.

He said afterwards he was "dying" on court, while France's Alize Cornet had her blood pressure and pulse monitored by a doctor during a medical timeout, saying later she was going to faint.

One of the worst years for heat at the Open was 2014, when many players were in trouble.

Among them was Blaz Kavcic who was placed on a drip, while Frank Dancevic said he was hallucinating about cartoon character Snoopy in his dazed state.—AFP ■



Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova uses an ice towel to keep cool during a break in her 2018 Australian Open second round match, in Melbourne, in January. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sticking to *New Year's* Resolutions?



By Aung Kaung Sett Hein
3rd year medical student

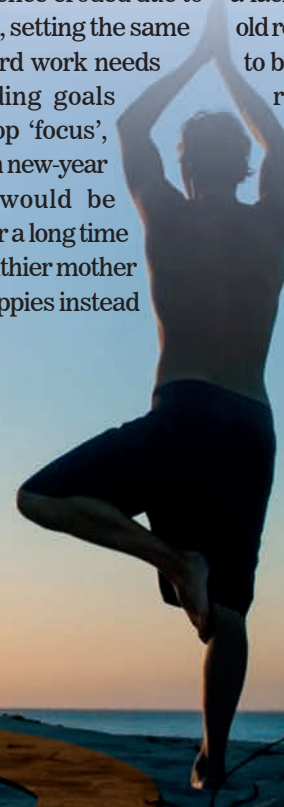
ANOTHER year, another fresh set of goals and resolutions! With the brand New Year 2019 approaching at a fast pace, we might have already created or are in the process of creating our own list of resolutions. While it surely sounds pretty exciting with all these new goals and changes, they are notoriously hard to be gone through or made a reality! Examples of top resolutions include staying healthy, losing weight, learning new languages, spending less, wearing a new fashion trend, being organised, but according to statistics, only 8% of those who make New Year's resolutions achieve them sadly. But you can rest assured that it is possible to keep your resolutions, just by following simple tips and tricks!

Some underlying fundamental factors contributing to a failure or setback in New Year's resolutions include procrastination, apathy, and lack of motivation. To eliminate these factors and succeed in our resolutions, first of all, we need to start off with being clear and specific with our goals, by planning ahead. For instance, instead of saying "I will visit new places", a well-define goal would be "I will visit 3 new cities in Europe for this year". And lots of people vow to lose weight as a New Year's resolution, but whether they have registered at a gym or got their workout gear ready to get straight into it as the new year begins, is another question. This is why our New Year's resolutions are merely a pipe dream, without a strategic or practical well-thought-out action plan!

Secondly, it is important for our target goals to be measurable, i.e., not just thinking of losing weight or saving money, but including "X pounds" of weight or "X amounts of money" and for this, it may be helpful to record or monitor one's weight every two weeks, or get on track of daily savings through a mobile app or simply a little notebook. This keeps us from missing out on knowing the degree of our achievement in relation to time on our resolutions. Furthermore, setting attainable goals is also key to a successful stick to our New Year's resolutions. Often we make gigantic and complicated goals, and most of the times they can be far from being realistic. As a result of this, we easily quit and have our motivation and confidence eroded due to a lack of immediate gratification. On the other hand, setting the same old resolutions or too easy ones that do not require hard work needs to be avoided.

Including goals relevant to our life in our resolutions can develop 'focus', which is one of the essentials to accomplish new-year resolutions besides willpower. An example would be that a pregnant lady who has been smoking for a long time thinks of quitting it, as she wants to be a healthier mother for her children or spend on disposable nappies instead of her cigarettes in the future. As a

SEE PAGE- S-3





(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

say said said ပြောသည်

1. He said, “We must produce more”.
သို့ပြောသည် ‘ငါတို့ကုန်ပိုထုတ်ရမည်။’
2. She said that she did not know what to do.
သူမ ဘာလုပ်ရမှန်းမသိပါဟု ပြောခဲ့သည်။
3. Not a word was said.
စကားတစ်လုံးမှ မပြောကြ။
4. I say what I mean and I mean what I say.
ကျွန်တော်စိတ်၌ ရည်ရွယ်သည်ကို ကျွန်တော်ပြောတတ်သည်။ ကျွန်တော် ပြောသည်ကိုလည်း ကျွန်တော်ရည်ရွယ်သည်။
5. It is easier said than done.
အပြောလွယ်သလောက် အလုပ်ခက်၏။
6. Do you like quottting old sayings?
သင် ရှေးအဆိုအမိန့်များ ကိုးကားခြင်းကို နှစ်သက်သလား။
7. He is a soothsayer.
သူသည် ဗေဒင်ဆရာတစ်ဦးဖြစ်သည်။
8. She left many words unsaid.
သူမသည် စကားလုံးများစွာ မပြောဘဲချန်ထားသည်။

tell told told ပြောသည်

1. She always tells the truth.
သူမ အမြဲတစေမှန်တာကိုသာပြောသည်။
2. He never tells lies.
သူ ဘယ်တော့မှ လိမ်မပြောတတ်ပါ။
3. Mother tells us a story every night.
အမေသည် ညစဉ် ကျွန်တော်တို့ကို ပုံတစ်ပုံပြောလေ့ရှိသည်။
4. Time will tell.
အချိန်ကပြောလိမ့်မည်။
5. Believe it or not, it is not a tale.
ယုံချင်ယုံ မယုံချင်နေ၊ ပုံပြင်မဟုတ်ပါ။
6. He said to her, “I am short of money.”
He told her that he was short of money.
သူက သူမကို သူ့မှာ ငွေပြတ်နေသည်ဟု ပြောခဲ့သည်။
7. She told me not to waste my time.
သူမက ကျွန်တော့်ကို အချိန်မဖြုန်းပစ်ရန်ပြောခဲ့သည်။
8. She is a good story-teller.
သူမသည် ပုံပြောကောင်းသူ တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
9. You can never tell.
သင်ဘယ်တော့မှ သေချာပေါက်မပြောနိုင်။
- 10.The night work is telling on my health. (idiom)
ညအလုပ်သည် ကျွန်တော့်ကျန်းမာရေးကိုထိခိုက်သည်။
- 11.He is a fortune-teller.
သူ ဗေဒင်ဆရာတစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။

(B) like d d ကြိုက်သည်၊ နှစ်သက်သည်။
like ကူသော

1. I like tea better than coffee.
ကျွန်တော်လက်ဖက်ရည်ကို ကော်ဖီထက် ပိုကြိုက်သည်။
He likes travelling.
သူ ခရီးသွားခြင်းကို နှစ်သက်သည်။
I would like to advise you to work hard.
ငါမင်းကို ကြိုးစားရန် အကြံပေးလိုသည်။
(Like နောက်တွင် to နှင့် မူရင်းကြိယာတွဲပါက like ရှေ့တွင် would ထည့်သုံးလေ့ရှိသည်။)
She likes mangoes but she dislikes oranges.
သူမ သရက်သီးကြိုက်သည် သို့ရာတွင် လိမ္မော်သီးကို မကြိုက်ပါ။

- I don’t care your likes and dislikes.
သင်ကြိုက်သည် မကြိုက်သည်များကို ကျွန်ုပ်ဂရုမစိုက်ပါ။
I have a special liking for canned fish. (N)
ကျွန်တော် ငါးသေတ္တာကို အလွန်နှစ်သက်သည်။
The author of this book likens life to a long journey.
ဤစာအုပ်ကို ရေးသူသည် ဘဝကို ခရီးရှည်တစ်ခုကို နှိုင်းထားသည်။
2. Khin Khin is like her mother in her style of walking.
ခင်ခင်သည် လမ်းလျှောက်ဟန်တွင် သူမ၏မိခင်နှင့်တူသည်။
The two sisters took alike.
ညီအစ်မနှစ်ယောက်တူကြသည်။
Like father like son.
ဘမျိုးဘိုးတူ။
He can climb trees like a monkey.
သူမျောက်တစ်ကောင်လို သစ်ပင်တက်နိုင်သည်။
Ko Ko can speak English like an Englishman.
ကိုကိုသည် အင်္ဂလိပ်စကားကို အင်္ဂလိပ်တစ်ယောက်လို ပြောနိုင်သည်။
They heard a sound the like of which nobody had ever heard before.
သူတို့သည် ယခင်မည်သူမျှ မကြားခဲ့ဘူးသော အသံတစ်သံကို ကြားခဲ့ကြသည်။
I don’t see much likeness between the two sisters.
ကျွန်တော်ညီအစ်မနှစ်ယောက်အကြား တူညီမှုကို မတွေ့ပါ။
 3. It is likely to rain today.
ယနေ့မိုးရွာဖို့များသည်။
He is likely to pass the examination.
သူစာမေးပွဲအောင်ဖို့များသည်။
In all likelihood,we shall stay there a week.
ငါတို့ ထိုနေရာတွင် တစ်ပတ်နေဖို့များသည်။

(C) lie lay lain လဲလျောင်းသည်။ တည်ရှိသည်။
lie lied lied လိမ်ပြောသည်။
lay laid laid ဥသည်၊ ချသည်။ ချမှတ်သည်။

1. He is lying on the bed face downwards.
သူ့အိပ်ယာပေါ်တွင် မှောက်လျက်လဲလျောင်းနေသည်။
Yangon lies on the mouth of the Hlaing River.
ရန်ကုန်မြို့သည် လှိုင်မြစ်ဝပေါ်တွင် တည်ရှိသည်။
2. Don’t lie to me.
ငါ့ကိုလိမ်မပြောပါနှင့်။
She is lying.
သူမ လိမ်ပြောနေသည်။
He never lies to me.
သူ ကျွန်တော့်ကို ဘယ်တော့မှ လိမ်မပြောပါ။
They are telling lies.
lies (လိမ်လည်ခြင်းများ)
သူတို့လိမ်ပြောနေကြသည်။
A lie has travelled round the world while truth is putting on her shoes.
အမှန်တရားသည် ဖိနပ်စီးနေစဉ်တွင် မသားသည် ကမ္ဘာတစ်ပတ်ခရီး ဆန့်ပြီးလေပြီ။
He is a liar.
သူသည် လိမ်ပြောတတ်သူ တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
I hate lying.
ကျွန်ုပ်လိမ်ပြောခြင်းကို မုန်းသည်။
(‘လဲလျောင်းခြင်းကို မုန်းသည်။’ ဟုလည်း အဓိပ္ပာယ်ရသည်။)
3. The hen lays a gold egg everyday.
ကြက်မကြီးသည် နေ့စဉ်ရွှေကြက်ဥတစ်ဥ ဥသည်။
Ko Ko laid the injured boy gently on the bed.
ကိုကိုသည် ဒဏ်ရာရထားသော လူကလေးကို ချတင်ပေါ်သို့ညင်သာစွာ ချလိုက်သည်။

The plan was laid down last year.
စီမံကိန်းကို မနှစ်က ချမှတ်ခဲ့သည်။
They laid their heads together.
သူတို့ခေါင်းချင်း ရိုက်ကြသည်။ (တိုင်ပင်ကြသည်။)
They laid down their arms (They surrendered.)
သူတို့လက်နက်ချခဲ့ကြသည်။
He wore four layers of clothes because it was very cold outside.
သူအဝတ်လေးထပ်ဝတ်ခဲ့သည်။ အဘယ့်ကြောင့်ဆိုသော် အပြင်တွင် အလွန်အေးသည်။

(D) Wind လေ
Wind wound wound ကွေ့ကောက်သည်၊ရစ်ပတ်သည်။
wound wounded wounded ဒဏ်ရာရသည်၊
(လက်နက်ဖြင့်)

1. A strong wind was blowing when I went out for a walk.
ကျွန်တော် လမ်းလျှောက်ထွက်ခဲ့သောအခါက လေပြင်းတစ်ခု တိုက်ခတ်နေသည်။
Last Monday was a windy day.
ပြီးခဲ့သော တနင်္လာနေ့သည် လေထန်သောနေ့ တစ်နေ့ဖြစ်သည်။
2. The river winds through the forest.
မြစ်သည် တောထဲဖြတ်၍ ကွေ့ကောက်စီးဆင်းသည်/
Paper is wound into rolls.
စက္ကူကို အလိပ်ကြီးများအဖြစ်သို့ ရစ်ပတ်သည်။
Life is a winding road.
ဘဝဟူသည် ကွေ့ကောက်သော လမ်းဖြစ်သည်။
3. Ko Ko was wounded in the Battle of Shwedaung.
ကိုကိုသည် ရွှေတောင်တိုက်ပွဲတွင်ဒဏ်ရာရခဲ့သည်။
The wounded were taken to the hospital.
ဒဏ်ရာရသူများကို ဆေးရုံသို့ယူသွားကြသည်။
4. The doctor is examining his wounds.
ဆရာဝန်သည် သူ၏ဒဏ်ရာများကို စစ်ဆေးကြည့်ရှုနေသည်။

E. economy စီးပွားရေး၊ ချွေတာခြင်း။

1. Ma Ma is studying Economics.
မမသည် ဘောဂဗေဒကို လေ့လာနေသည်။
She wants to be an economist.
သူမသည် ဘောဂဗေဒပညာရှင် တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်ချင်သည်။
We must strive (try) to further develop our economy.
ငါတို့၏ စီးပွားရေးကို ပိုမိုဖွံ့ဖြိုးအောင် ကြိုးပမ်းကြရမည်။
The economic problems of the farmers and workers have been solved.
လယ်သမား အလုပ်သမားများ၏ စီးပွားရေးပြဿနာများကို ဖြေရှင်းပြီးပြီ။
Burma was economically backward before the war.
စစ်ကြီးမဖြစ်ခင်က မြန်မာပြည်သည် စီးပွားရေးအရ ခေတ်နောက်ကျခဲ့သည်။
2. We must practise economy.
ငါတို့ချွေတာမှုကို ကျင့်သုံးရမည်။
He economizes by using buses instead of taking taxis.
သူသည် တက္ကစီ စီးမည့်အစား ဘတ်(စ်)ကားစီးခြင်းဖြင့် ချွေတာခဲ့သည်။
We must economize on food and clothing.
ငါတို့ အစားအစာနှင့် အဝတ်အစားတွင် ချွေတာရမည်။
We must be economical of our time and money.
ငါတို့အချိန်နှင့်ငွေကို ချွေတာရမည်။

F. Industry စက်မှုလုပ်ငန်း၊ ဝိရိယ

1. We must try to develop both the heavy and light industries.
ငါတို့အကြိုးစားနှင့် အသေးစားစက်မှုလုပ်ငန်းများကို ဖွံ့ဖြိုးအောင် ကြိုးစားကြရမည်။
Burma is not yet an industrial country.
မြန်မာပြည်သည် စက်မှုထွန်းကားသော နိုင်ငံဖြစ်မလာသေးပါ။
U Ko Ko is an industrialist.
ဦးကိုကိုသည် စက်မှုလုပ်ငန်းရှင်တစ်ယောက်ဖြစ်သည်။
Sooner or later we must try to industrialize our country.
အနွေးနှင့်အမြန် ငါတို့တိုင်းပြည်ကို စက်မှုထွန်းကားအောင် ကြိုးစားရမည်။
2. Ma Ma is very industrious.
မမသည် အလွန်ဝိရိယရှိသည်။
It was through industry that she passed the examination.
သူမ စာမေးပွဲအောင်သည်မှာ ဝိရိယကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည်။

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

Reading: My Cup of Tea



how the end is going to end but yet we do not want to finish it because we know that there is a strange feeling in us whenever a book overs. This is just a big problem with reading. Reading is somehow an addictive drug as well. Most readers want more and more when they finish one book after another. Like Benedict Cumberbatch, one of the best British actors, says about himself on reading-

"Because reading is one of the joys of life,

And once you begin, you can't stop,

and you've got so many stories to look forward to."

No matter how busy you may be, always remember to find a little time to read a piece of writing.

Reading is installing a brand new software into our brain. Therefore, we will start to know more about life, we can start to distinguish between good and bad. Reading opens the door to the ocean of knowledge and books are the stairways to a fantasy heaven. Asking the bookworms why they read, they will answer that they don't just read books to get smart, they read to escape from this mean and mighty world full of too much reality and negativities.

When I get hurt, I usually make myself lost in the library as I believe that a library is a hospital for all those who have wounds inside which no one can see or nobody can know. Nobody else can heal or cure those wounds expect the books. Reading is a kind of therapy that everybody needs some times.

In this case of reading, there are many genres to choose from. Such as documentary, biography, fictions and nonfictions. Mostly, fictions are people's favourites which include adventure, comedy, thriller or horror, detective, romance or drama, fantasy and many more. Some go for romance while others go for fantasy. These days, we can read not only with books but also online. There are lots of ebooks online which we can read comfortably at anywhere and any time. There are plenty of goodies we can get from reading books (or any other things to read). While reading our brain is just focusing on one thing so that our concentration skills can improve. Our heart is beating steadily as we are breathing in and out regularly so, reading can reduce heart failure and makes us healthy in a way.

For me, reading has been here with me since I knew how to spell words and build sentences. Books get me under their influence. Their stories inspire me. Thus, reading is a part of me. Reading is my cup of tea.

■

rider, a detective and even a superhero.

Those are the characters which the books make me become whenever I sit down and open them. I have heard once that a reader lives thousands of lives before death unlike those who read nothing, who only have one lonely life which they are given.

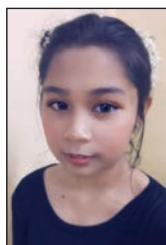
Books are so magical. They take us to where we have never been to. The paragraphs, short and long sentences change our personalities. Words and words, they collide each other then become the greatest stories which tell about our real life. Thus, sometimes we may have to learn a lot from reading books as they have the power to change us. The quote which daddy always tells me that is by Francis Bacon (Former Lord Chancellor) says-

"Some books are to be tasted, Others to be swallowed, And some to be chewed and digested."

Additionally, the problem with reading a book which we love is that we want to know what are written on those next pages, what is going to happen till end,

READING becoming my passion depends a lot on my mom and dad. Both of them are bookworms and they used to tell me fairytales before bed when I was younger. As I became a little bit older, old enough to read on my own, I started off with short stories then, I get to the level of reading novels.

Whenever, I get a little piece of time, I throw myself onto my bed and chill with a very fascinating book. There ain't any other vibe as cool as this. I am fond of this hobby amongst all of my hobbies because I believe that it takes me to the place where I can be who I really want to be at some times. It's like dreaming with open eyes. Sometimes I become a lost girl, a dragon



By AW Khin Myat Phone
Grade 11 A, BEHS 4,
Botahtaung

FROM PAGE- S-1

medical student myself, one of my New Year's resolutions is to start doing a 5-minute meditation as part of my morning routine and this is closely aligned with my stressful academic life. Finally we need to track our progress in our journey of resolutions and getting family and friends involved in the process can be one of the best choices. When they are made aware of our resolutions, they can help us keep on track, hold us accountable, and support

us! Besides this, setting ourselves little deadlines and attaching our goals to small time-frames can make our resolutions more manageable, for example, planning to do yoga regularly for the first 20 or 30 days would not pressurize or distract the person too much, and she can expect to reward herself after a certain period of hard work. Or targeting towards a weight loss of 3 pounds every 15 days can help tackle the obstacle of procrastination!

In this way, New Year's resolutions are easy and fun

to make, but certainly not as easy to keep. The challenges that come with carrying out those resolutions can be vast and stressful, but they need to be faced with a positive thinking or a visualization of the life that we want ahead. Mishaps can happen along the way, but making our goals forward instead of giving up straight away is more important. Our last year resolutions may probably have been a flop, but let us try this year – for a happy and prosperous 2019!



Baby-Gibbon

Aye Mar Way
(Researcher)

MONKEY Day is an unofficial holiday observed on December 14, 2018. The day takes place annually and is celebrated internationally. The holiday celebrates monkeys and all things simian including other non-human primates such as apes, tarsiers and lemurs. It is celebrated worldwide to raise awareness about these animals and their role in nature, and to show love and care for them. It is also a day to "learn something about these adorable and highly intelligent primates". It was created and popularized by artists Casey Sorrow and Eric Millikin, beginning in 2000 when they were art students at Michigan State University. Since then, Monkey Day has been widely celebrated in many countries around the world.

World Monkey Day is intended to help draw attention to issues related to non-human primates, including medical research and animal rights dedicated to raise awareness and to appreciate them because most of primate species are endangered. It can be celebrated in any number of different ways. Many people like to celebrate the day by going to the zoo, dressing favorite monkey attire and interacting with our fellow primates. Watching a documentary or film featuring monkeys and donating to a charity to protect monkeys in the wild can also be done. In also Myanmar, zoos hold special celebrations for Monkey Day annually. They include art competitions and educational events about monkeys, wearing monkey masks and costume, telling about monkeys, and raising awareness the dangers of that primates facing worldwide.

Among the two different categories of monkeys (old world monkeys found in Asia and Africa and new world monkeys found in the Americas), monkeys found in Myanmar are old world monkeys. And then, Myanmar possesses a diverse range of non-human primates of mainland South-East Asia including slow lorises (genus *Nycticebus*), leaf monkeys (genera *Trachypithecus*, *Presbytis*, and *Rhinopithecus*), macaques (genus *Macaca*), and gibbons (genera *Hoolock* and *Hylobates*). To participate in the celebration of World Monkey Day, some rare primate species that can be found in Myanmar are presented as knowledge for all.

1. Myanmar snub-nosed monkey

It is described as a novel species of primate based on its fur, beard and tail. It can easily be distinguished from other snub-nosed monkeys because its pelage is entirely black or blackish brown but its face is light pink. The lips are prominent and thick and eyes are almond-shape and black. The nose faces upwards with wide upturned nostrils. The chin is covered with a white delicate thin beard. The limbs are muscular and they have five digits on hands and feet with opposable thumb and big toe.

The species was discovered in the country's remote northeastern state of Kachin, near the border in 2010. The following year, scientists in China also found this animal in the neighboring forests of Yunnan province in southern China. With an estimated population of only around 260-330 individuals in Myanmar and less than 100 remain in China, the species is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Participation in celebration of World Monkey Day



Newborn dusky leaf monkeys are orange or yellow in color

2. Leaf Monkeys

The leaf monkeys are a group of Old World monkeys. They are also known as lutungs or langurs. They have a rather slim build with a long tail. The fur color varies, depending on the species, from black and grey to orange yellow. Their arms are short in comparison to the feet and their thumbs are also somewhat shorter. The inner surfaces of the hands and feet are hairless so that their fur does not get caught when reaching into branches. The males are generally larger than females. Two species of leaf monkeys that can be found in Myanmar are Dusky Langur and Capped Langur.

(a) Dusky Leaf Monkey

Due to the distinctive feature of white rings around the eyes, the little langurs are also called Spectacled Leaf Monkey or spectacled langur. The monkey is listed among

Myanmar Snub-Nosed Monkey
Photo: Copyright Yin Yang. Used with permission.

A hoolock gibbon is seen in a forest. A survey of the threatened primate will be conducted during the cool season. (Photo - WCS)



The Dusky Langur

the cutest animals in the world due to its interesting appearances, cute look, and adorable size. This animal has white colored patches of fur around its mouth and stomach while the rest of the fur has a gray to brownish color. Both males and females look similar. They cannot easily be distinguished as they have similar morphological features. The color of its fur varies along the 7 subspecies.

The dusky leaf monkeys can be found in southern Myanmar, and also in Malaysia and Thailand. As they are arboreal, they prefer dwelling on tall trees in dense forests. The conservation status of dusky leaf monkey has been categorized under near threatened (NT) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

(b) Capped Langur

The capped langur or bonneted langur is a species of primate that has the appear-

ances of dark grey to black fur of the back, fading to creamy white or golden yellow on the belly. However, small differences in color distinguish the four subspecies of capped langur. They are found in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Chian, and India. The dense and highly productive hill forests are home to the capped langur, which inhabits ecosystems including tropical dry forests, subtropical, broad-leaf and evergreen forests, providing there are many streams. It may also be seen in bamboo forest and teak plantations. They are arboreal and gregarious by nature. It is threatened by habitat loss. The capped langur is classified as Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List.

3. Gibbons

The gibbons are small apes and are more closely related to humans than to monkeys. They are distributed throughout the tropical rain forests of South-East Asia. They are unusual among primates in several respects that can be summarized under three key complexes: locomotion, social structure, and communication. Gibbons have no external tail and they are distinguishable by the length of their arms and legs. They currently reside in the evergreen forest in the northern part of Myanmar, Rakhine Yoma, Htamanthi wildlife sanctuary and Naga Range. In generally, two kinds of gibbons can be found in Myanmar. They are Hoolock Gibbons and Lar Gibbons.

(a) Hoolock Gibbon

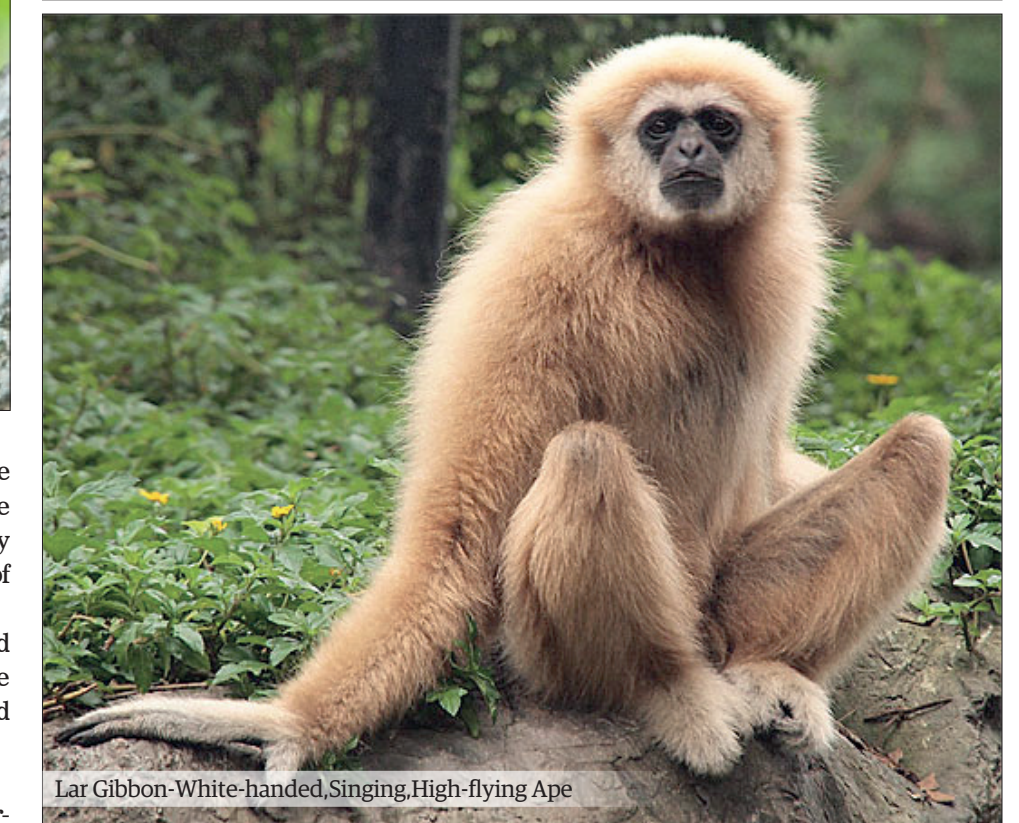
Hoolocks are the second-largest of the gibbon family. Both male and female have the same size, but they differ considerably in coloration: males are black-colored with remarkable white brows, while females have a grey-brown fur, which is darker at the chest and neck. White rings around their eyes and mouths give their faces a mask-like appearance. Although two species of Hoolock Gibbons, Western Hoolock Gibbon and Eastern Hoolock Gibbon have been recorded in Myanmar, an international team of scientist discovered a new species of hoolock gibbon known Skywalker Hoolock Gibbon in eastern Myanmar and southwestern China in 2017.

Hoolock gibbons are distributed in forested areas from eastern India and Bangladesh, through Myanmar to southern China. In Myanmar, the western hoolock, as the name implies, occurs in western Myanmar and is separated from the eastern hoolock by the Chindwin river. The eastern hoolock occurs east of the Chindwin up to the Salween river.

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Here is a female and male western hoolock gibbon



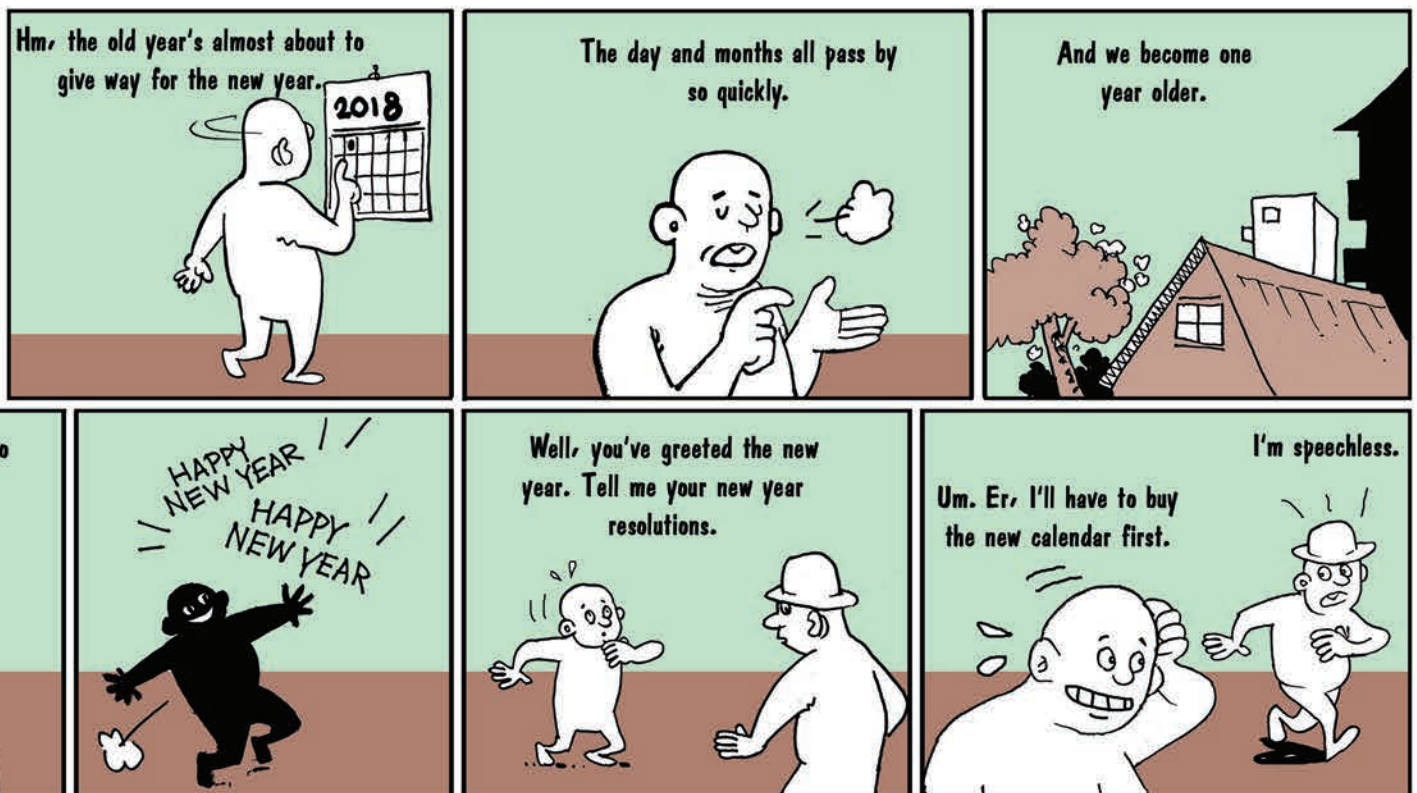
Lar Gibbon-White-handed,Singing,High-flying Ape

SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2018



Sayadaw U Ottama: Rakhine's Outstanding Patriot

By Maung Thet Wai (Ann)

SAYADAW U Ottama was the first patriot who instilled nationalistic spirit in the whole people of Myanmar when our country was under the British rule. I wrote this article in accordance with the Buddhist scriptures and again with Myanmar traditions of paying respect for the elders. I did so in memory of Sayadaw's outstanding qualities to free from the yoke of imperialism.

He passed away 79 years ago on 7 September, 1939. But, the youths of today know little about the Sayadaw; the reason is probably because no one write about the Sayadaw in their poems, articles and biographies.

But the biography of the Sayadaw was written ceremoniously in the Hindi encyclopaedia in Varanasi City, India. Japan too published books about the Sayadaw during the Second World War.

In the literary talks in Sittway in 1996, Saya Paragu remarked: "We should not forget the Sayadaw. I found his statue in a hall to my satisfaction. I really want his status to be known all over the country." He did not prioritize the wellbeing of the Rakhine people and the propagation of the Buddhist Sasana even if he was a Rakhine national and Buddhist monk. Indeed, he fought for Myanmar independence at the sacrifice of his own life, the Sayadaw instilled patriotism in our people; actually he was the principal architect of independence.

The author would like to recall some parts of his biography. He was born in Sittway, Rakhine State of parents U Mra Tha Oo and Daw Aung Krwa Phyu on 27 December, 1879. Of three siblings, he was the eldest son and assumed the childhood name of Paw Htoo Aung. He stood second in the Fifth Grade and was awarded a certificate by the English Commissioner himself. Although he received the certificate, he was not satisfied and happy. Accompanied by his younger brother, he went to the Strand Road and tore the certificate apart and threw the pieces into the Kalandan River. He told his brother not to accept the second and the third, but only the first.

At the age of 15, he became a novice by his parents' consent and visited Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Taunggu, Pakokku and Maubin towns and studied the Buddhist Scriptures. At 20 he joined monkhood and visited eastern countries of India, Japan and China, Middle East country of Egypt and European country of France for study tours. During his tours, he was believed to have learnt nine different languages. During his stay in India, he competed with Indian pundits for the chairmanship of Hindu Maha Sabath. To become a chairman of Hindu Association was not an easy task. Then he received much respect from the Indians. After studying in Japan for five years, he served as Pali professor at the Tokyo University. During

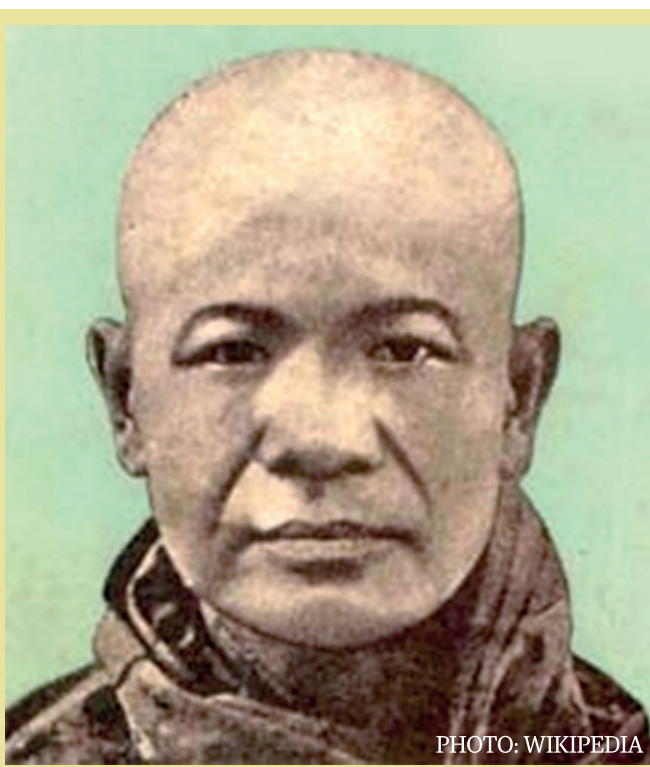


PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

the tenure, the Sayadaw discussed with Chinese politician Dr. Sun Yat-sen on political affairs. As Dr Sun invited him respectfully, the Sayadaw accompanied him to China.

In 1911, his homeward journey from Japan, he visited Korea, China, France and Indochina. In Saigon, he discussed with Prince Mingun on Myanmar political affairs over luncheon. In the year, he returned to his homeland of Myanmar. As our country was under the British rule, even in the events of Young Men Buddhist Association, members of YMBA blessed: "Long live King George and Queen Mary." In the same way, the students chanted in unison: "For the King and Queen to live long."

In 1911, no one dared individually or collectively to rebel against the British. But the Sayadaw with farsightedness gained through the worldwide visits, gave political talks against the British. Under his guidance, Myanmar people became relatively more sophisticated and they yearned for independence. That is why the Sayadaw was said to have sown seeds of discontent against the British in the Colonial Period of Myanmar History.

The First Student Boycott occurred in 1920 thanks to his political will; at that time the Sayadaw was in India. He rushed to Yangon right after receiving the telegraphic message. He encouraged the University Students' Boycott in consulting with leaders of Young Men Buddhist Association. As Sir Reginald Craddock was the governor of Myanmar, he tried to shut down the newspapers and some journals because they were regarded as weapons

of inciting Myanmar people to the British. The British government arrested some leaders and the Boycott Law was proclaimed. At that time the Sayadaw wrote a letter to the Governor to leave the country immediately.

The letter was described in the *Thuriya* newspaper to the amazement of the whole Myanmar people, thereby instilling national spirit in them. Sayadaw continued to give political talks selflessly in villages, small and big towns, even though he would be arrested if he rebelled against the British. The Maubin District Court imprisoned him for a year and eight months in 1921 in accordance with Section 124(A) and Section 154(A) for political talks in villages of Sukluck and TamaTakaw. Many people and monks alike became intolerable upon hearing the news of Thuriya newspaper, thereby instilling patriotism in the minds of the public. The Sayadaw was the first person imprisoned by the British Government for political reasons.

Even if he was released from the jail, he could not stay at a certain place for meditation and he came to the fore at moments of crisis. It was a common practice for him to be sent to and released from prison. He yearned for independence and often said that he would be happy to die after gaining independence from the British.

In 1939, some politicians of a political party brought him from India by plane; the party won 46 seats in the parliament. As he grew older, he happened to suffer diabetes. At that time, he was short of robes, food and medicines. Putting on worn-out robes and wearing no slippers and umbrella, he went into newsroom to ask for some copies of English and Myanmar papers. He used to read them under shady trees beside a street. Severely suffering several illnesses, he passed away at the age of 60 at Naunggon Monastery in Pazungdaung Township. Lower Parliamentary members suspended the Parliament for five minutes in honor of the Sayadaw and offered its condolences to his family. On behalf of Indian community in Mandalay, a member of parliament Mr Bunga Singh added that the Sayadaw was the greatest political leader who instilled patriotism in the minds of the public.

The author wrote this article for the future generations to emulate the selflessness of the Rakhine Sayadaw U Ottama who always came to the forefront whenever critical points of crises occurred in order to gain independence of Myanmar.

Ref: *Sayadaw U Ottama: a flaming torch for Myanmar independence*

Compiled by Thakin Lwin; U Ottama, a leading patriot for independence : arranged by Maung Zeyar .

Translated by Arakan Sein

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The conservation status of Eastern Hoolock Gibbon and Skywalker Hoolock Gibbon is Endangered (EN) and Eastern Hoolock Gibbon is Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List.

(b) Lar Gibbon (White-handed Gibbon)

Lar gibbon or white-handed gibbon is the only non-hoolock gibbon species reliable recorded in Myanmar. The fur of this species is black, brown, buff or creamy, with contrasting white hands and feet and a white ring around the face. The fur coloring of the lar gibbon varies from black and dark-brown to light-brown, sandy colors. The hands and feet are white-colored, likewise a ring of white hair surrounds the black face. Both males and females can be all color variants, and the sexes also hardly differ in size.

In Myanmar, Lar gibbon occurs Shan State, Kayah State, Kayin State, Mon state, Rakhine State and Tanintharyi Region. Outside of Myanmar, the distribution range of the white-handed gibbon stretches eastward up to the Mekong river and includes

parts of Laos, large parts of Thailand, peninsular Malaysia, Indonesia and southwestern Yunnan province of China. The conservation status of Lar gibbon is Endangered (EN) according to the IUCN Red List.

The population trends of above primate animals are decreasing and some have been seriously threatened to push them to extinction. The main reasons for the declination of these species are loss of habitat, urbanization, and human interventions. One of the biggest predators of these animals are humans, as they are used for food and wildlife trade. Thus, these animals must be saved in time before extinction. Some NGOs, governmental organizations and communities are conducting conservation works for these species. However, public participation in conservation works is important to save effectively these endangered animals. Therefore, as an animal lover, all are invited to participate in the celebration of World Monkey Day by expressing some rare primate animals in Myanmar.



University Life and Extra-curricular Activities

By Kyal Sin Phu
2nd year Honours Student
(English Specialization)
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WE normally go to university to continue tertiary education. In my view, it is not worthwhile going to university with a mere purpose of getting a degree. We should go beyond the confines of the classroom to spread our wings. In other words, we should not be bookish at all times like we used to be in high school. Apart from pursuing academic qualifications (hard skills), we should partake in extra-curricular activities to equip ourselves with soft skills such as interpersonal skills, leadership skills, problem-solving skills, etc. that can hardly be acquired in the classroom.

During our salad days at university, we have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities – from sport, music and dancing to personal development and community service programs. We can choose the activity that suits our pastime. For example, if we are articulate and fond of engaging in debate, we can join a Debate Club. Through volunteering activities, we have a chance to meet new people of different personality traits and diverse backgrounds. So, we can build up

friendships outside our usual circle and expand our social network. We can also learn how to interact with others effectively, how to establish harmonious relationship with them and how to team up with them for the sake of common welfare. In other words, extra-curricular activities instil the spirit of cooperation in us and cultivate the habit of building unity in diversity. Simultaneously, it helps us understand the saying “Many hands make light work”.

Furthermore, getting together with many people makes us feel a sense of belonging and boosts our confidence to assimilate into our community. It combats loneliness and depression as well as paranoia. It encourages us to be compassionate and considerate towards others, and respect different viewpoints of the others. In this way, we can improve our communication skills that are essential to live in concord with different types of people in our society.

When we take part in extra-curricular activities, we have to balance our time to study and to engage in activities on regular basis. Thus, we can enhance our time management skills and get to perceive the value of

time. If we run a club as organizers, we have to tackle the challenges to promote reputation of the club and to fulfil members’ expectation of the club. In this way, we can gain hands-on experience of leadership skills, problem-solving skills and negotiation skills. Moreover, occupying in such leadership positions reinforces a sense of responsibility in us and enlightens us about the qualities of a good leader.

Nowadays, the job market becomes highly competitive. Thus, only academic achievement is not enough to project ourselves as ideal candidates among the sea of applicants. We need to showcase a range of best traits over and above our academic qualifications. Here, we can apply the aforementioned soft skills and experiences we have gained from extra-curricular activities to create an impressive CV.

To sum up, in the springtime of life at university, we should get out of our comfort zone and attempt to discover our potential by participating in extra-curricular activities rather than fiddling around and wasting our precious time.



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Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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