

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 251, 7th Waxing of Pyatho 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Sunday, 24 December 2017



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Chinese Ambassador's wife Mrs. Wang Xue Hong unveil the statue of Daw Khin Kyi as they open the Daw Khin Kyi Women's Hospital in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor attends ceremony to open Daw Khin Kyi Women's Hospital

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a ceremony yesterday to reopen the newly renovated Daw Khin Kyi Women's Hospital in Bahan Township, named after her mother and located near her childhood home.

The hospital upgrades were donated jointly by the Embassy

of the People's Republic of China in Myanmar and China Foundation for Peace and Development.

In her speech yesterday, she highlighted the importance of the all-encompassing compassion of nurses as a requirement for the unity of national races.

"This hospital is not only

important for our health, but is important for our union and our nurses. I felt much gratitude toward the people who made the hospital in my mother's name, Daw Khin Kyi (Women's) Hospital, into a successful and developed hospital that will serve the people. I personally value these things," said Daw Aung

San Suu Kyi.

The hospital brought back childhood memories for the State Counsellor, who experienced the compassionate nature of nurses when they occasionally visited her home.

Her mother, wife of Bogyoke Aung San, was also a nurse.

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SUNDAY SPECIAL



Today's issue contains an 8-Page special pull-out supplement.



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Catholic youths sing Christmas carols at residence of Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief

THE Catholic Kachin Youth Yangon (CKYY) choir and singing group came to the residence of Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday evening to sing Christmas carols and pray for peace.

After the choir sang Christmas carols, CKYY choir leader Daw Samlut Sakhon delivered a prayer of peace.

The choir then gave Christmas presents to the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and his wife, who in return presented the group with musical instruments, cash donations and food. Afterwards, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief gave a speech of greeting to the CKYY group.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and his family then treated the CKYY group with food and took commemorative photos.

Earlier in the day, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief attended a ceremony held by



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife present musical instruments to singing group. PHOTO: MNA

former cadets of the Defence Service Academy (DSA) intake 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, paying homage to former military and civil-

ian teachers who taught them military and academic subjects. The ceremony was held in Tatmadaw Dhammayone, near the

southern stairway of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

A total of 90 former military and civilian teachers attended

the ceremony, who were paid homage by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, former cadets who are still in service and retired military.

Brig-Gen (Retired) Tin Oo explained the purpose and history of the ceremony, then Col. Shu Maung and Col. Aye Thaw read the letters of homage sent by Vice President U Myint Swe and Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Former cadets of DSA intake 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 then paid homage to the teachers according to tradition and Colonel (retired) Thein Myint delivered a speech on behalf of the teachers.

Afterwards, former cadets presented gifts to the teachers. The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief then greeted the teachers and took commemorative photos.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Forum to set minimum wage in Yangon

U Thein Swe, the Union Minister for the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, attended a workshop for setting the minimum wage at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The minister discussed the setting of a new minimum wage at the forum. U Zarni Thwe, General Secretary of Farmers, Agriculture and Foodstuff, said it was high time to set a minimum wage for workers because “we already have proposed to set the rate of minimum wages between the employers and the employees.”

The President's Office has already formed the National Minimum Wage Committee and made a tri-partite dialogue to resolve the issues.

The committee has already arranged to hold meetings through employers, employees and representatives.

Attendees at the forum were members of Amyotha Committee, Htuttaw Representatives, labour organisation representatives, experts, employer groups, the International Labour Organisation and the Central Statistical Organisation. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Workshop for setting the minimum wage held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Information in Lashio



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint meets with the staff from MRTV, the IPRD in Lashio northern Shan State.

PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint met with the staff of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), the Information and Public Relations Department and the News and Periodicals Enterprise at the State Information and Public Relationship Department in Lashio, northern Shan State yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said matters relating to the gathering of news, pub-

lishing and distribution sections to be reformed in accord with the new technology and offices of the Information and Public Relations Department are to be turned into the Community Centre, where people make use of it and to cooperate with state administrative organisations and social organisations.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister inspected the Community Centre of State Information

and Public Relations Department associate office, MRTV sub-transmission station and Sub-Printing House (Lashio).

Earlier in the morning, the Union Minister took part in the mass walk event of Lashio, in which nearly 8,500 people participated, by walking from Lashio Town Hall to Union Sport Stadium, where sport activities and competitions were continued. —District IPRD ■

President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady attend pre-Christmas prayer and lunch

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin attended a pre-Christmas prayer and lunch held at Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than's residence yesterday morning.

Attending the lunch together with President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin were Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hl-wam, Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar's Chairperson U Myo Nyunt, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Deputy Ministers and wives, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, heads of departments and invited guests who were welcomed by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U



President U Htin Kyaw and wife pose for a commemorative photo with attendees at the pre-Christmas prayer and lunch. PHOTO: MNA

Mahn Win Khaing Than, wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi and family who also gave Christmas wishes.

At the pre-Christmas prayer

and lunch, President U Htin Kyaw delivered a message of greetings and had lunch together with the guests who were in attendance.

After having lunch, the President and First Lady took commemorative photos with guests who were in attendance.

At the pre-Christmas prayer

Reverends and Fathers read Christmas Psalms, verses from the Bible and sang Christmas carols and hymns.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor attends ceremony to open Daw Khin Kyi Women's Hospital

FROM PAGE 1

"Though the ethnic women nurses came from different areas of the country, they loved each other and were united. I've seen none who were not compassionate. I respect the nurses and value them. In the same way, I came to understand the Union Spirit from them. There was no discrimination on where they came from. They don't treat one patient differently from another," she said.

The State Counsellor also underlined the health and education sectors which Myanmar needs for development.

"When I say a person is not educated, I don't mean not having a degree. I mean not having rational thought. This is depending on the surrounding. It is not depending on whether you attended school or not. To have rationalization is to treat others correctly. It was an education for me to see the young nurses who came from all over the country living together in friendship and unity," she said.

She also encouraged the nurses in attendance yesterday, as they play an important role in country's health care.



Chinese Ambassador's wife Mrs. Wang Xue Hong delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of Daw Khin Kyi Women's Hospital. PHOTO: MNA

"When I was young, I thought nurses were more important than doctors. I still have the same thought now. This is because the nurses are the one who are giving personal treatment and encouragement to the patients," she added.

The good care provided with compassion and good will by present-day nurses can help those who can serve the country regain strength to contribute toward the country, she said. As part of yesterday's ceremony, the Chinese Ambassador's wife Mrs. Wang Xue Hong delivered a message of greeting and then

transferred documents related to Daw Khin Kyi Women Hospital, a Myanmar-China friendship hospital, which were accepted by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

Mrs. Wang Xue Hong also presented a certificate of honour to U Chaung, the honorary chairman of the Central Organization for Myanmar-China Cooperative Relations.

This was followed by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe presenting documents of honour to Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and the chairman of the

China Foundation for Peace and Development, who donated the upgrading of the Daw Khin Kyi Women's Hospital and provided hospital equipment. The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Myanmar acting Charge d'affaires accepted the certificate of honour on behalf of the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Then also presented certificates of honour to Central Organization for Myanmar-China Cooperative Relations senior chairman U Thitsa, who facilitated the quick renovation of the hospital. Documents of honour were also presented to the director of Art Wave Group Co., who conducted the renovations and construction of the hospital, and Chief Engineer of China Sino-harm International Corporation, a company that imported hospital equipment and provided medical training. Next, the State Counsellor, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe and the Chinese Ambassador's wife Mrs. Wang Xue Hong cut a ceremonial ribbon to open the hospital,

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Mrs. Wang Xue Hong unveiled the statue of Daw Khin Kyi in

the hospital.

The foundation of the hospital hall that later became Daw Khin Kyi Women's Hospital was laid in 22 August, 1933 and opened on 1 September, 1933. Stewardship of the hospital was transferred to a Women and Child Care organization on 15 September 1947 and was renamed Tower Lane Hospital. It was used as a hospital to deliver children.

The hospital was governed by the 13-member board chaired by Daw Khin Kyi and transferred to the social welfare department in 1949. In 1953, the hospital came under the control of Ministry of Health.

With the Daw Khin Kyi Women's Hospital upgraded to high standards, the pressure on Central Women's Hospital and other hospitals in Yangon will be reduced, officials said. Additionally, arrangements are underway to train skilled midwives who will provide basic health care throughout the country.

The total cost of upgrading and renovating Daw Khin Kyi Women's Hospital and provisioning it with medical instruments and equipment was US\$2 million — Myanmar News Agency

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Tomato growers receive good price for latest harvest

THE month of December saw an increase in prices of tomatoes produced in Aunglan Township, Thetyet District, Magway Region, growers say.

"We continue to receive a handsome price for the marketable kitchen crop this harvest season which is higher than that of last year. Based on the size, quality, freshness and species, the prices of tomato are between Ks500 and Ks700 per viss (a viss is equivalent to 3.6 pounds) in the domestic market," said U San Lynn, one of local tomato producers.

Tomatoes, a popular kitchen crop, is widely used as the main ingredient for many traditional dishes in the country. In Aunglan Township, tomatoes have mostly been grown in villages along Moekaung Creek and Bwokegyi Creek in the cold season. The fresh tomatoes are usually sent to the wholesale markets in nearby towns.

"Despite an increase in



Woman selling tomatoes on the street market. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

prices of tomatoes at the present time, growers worry that they may experience a decline in the prices of tomato again that they experienced in previous years.

At the time, we received only

Ks50 per viss and lost production costs," said U San Lynn.

Normally, an acre of tomato plantation costs approximately Ks500,000, he added.

The crop is famous for its

health benefits. According to an international study, tomatoes provide antioxidant protection against cancer, strengthen the heart and prevent constipation.—Shwe Khine ■

Rural electrification project implemented in Sittway District

ELECTRICITY authorities announced that a rural electrification project has been implemented in villages ten miles from Ponnagyun Township, Sittway District, Rakhine State.

Under the government's rural electrification plan, installation of power facilities have been carried out in target villages with the use of the Union government's budget so as to offer 24 hours electricity services to the villagers in the coming year.

As part of the project, a 20 MVA/66/11 KVA transformer is also being installed at the 230 KV main power station in the town. Electrical engineers and staff from the Township Electricity Department are putting continuous efforts to finalise the installation of the new transformer no later than this month.

The country's power consumption is increasing year by year especially in industrial cities while the vast majority of rural areas are living with-

out electricity.

The country generates power mainly from hydropower projects and from heat.

According to the ministry's official figures, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy produced over 10 billion units of power in 2012-2013 FY. It increased to over 12 billion units in 2013-2014 FY, 14 billion units in 2014-2015 FY and over 15 billion units in 2015-2016 FY. In 2016-17 FY, the power production reached more than 17 billion units.—Khine Khant ■

Fish paste industry relies mainly on local market

THE fish paste, dried fish and sauce industry is mainly relying on the local market, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Even though businessmen want to penetrate the international market, there is a lack of technical expertise and investment money in the fish paste, dried fish and sauce sector.

Although fish paste, dried fish and fish sauce produced locally is exported to Thailand,

Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore, the vast majority of these products are bought and consumed by locals.

Myanmar exports only 20 per cent of fish paste, dried fish and sauce from local production.

"Other countries demand only raw materials of Myanmar's aquatic products.

Also, we don't get a high price. The fish paste and dried fish are likely to be less durable because we have

made them without using chemicals.

Therefore, we cannot penetrate the international market," said U Tun Sein, the secretary of Myanmar Fish Paste, Dried Fish and Fish Sauce Association.

To be able to export these products, the Myanmar Fish Paste, Dried Fish and Fish Sauce Association has invited foreign investors to invest in the Myanmar aquatic sector, it is learnt.—GNLM ■

Elderly killed in hit-and-run crash in Yangon

A fatal road accident happened on Saturday early morning in Dagon Myothit Seikkan Township in Yangon that left an elderly woman dead, according to the township police.

Investigators say that the 75-year-old Daw Tin Tin Ohn residing on Zawtika Street in Ward-87 who was hit by a Hyundai car while she passed the Ponnami Street to dispose the kitchen rubbishes at around 6 a.m. on 23 December.

She died at the scene. Police are still trying to identify the driver.

A police officer said that investigations are being made in an effort to arrest the unknown driver who immediately fled from the scene.

The driver will face legal charges under the existing Penal Code for his careless driving.—Ko Gyi Soe (Seikkan) ■

Pathein parasols exported to Germany



The restaurant decorated with Pathein parasols in Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

LARGE Pathein parasols, Myanmar's traditional sun umbrellas used in hotels as interior decoration, is yearly exported to Germany through sea routes, according to a report of Myawady Daily.

That umbrella is one of the famous souvenir products of Pathein Town, Ayeyawady Region. Foreign companies mostly

from countries of the European Union place orders of umbrella 6 to 8 feet in diameter. Sixty per cent of Pathein parasols went to foreign markets, whereas only 40 per cent of them are for the local market. Hotels from Ngwesaung, Chaungtha and Ngapali beaches and Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and

Mawlamyine towns buy Pathein parasols for decoration.

Also, Pathein parasols are seen in religious events, charity events and ordination ceremony. Myanmar fine arts are painted on Pathein parasol. Foreigners appreciate Pathein parasols for their handmade quality. —GNLM ■

Export income up by \$1.66 billion against last FY

EXPORT to foreign trade partners between 1st April and 15th December this fiscal year hit US\$9.75 billion, which increased by \$1.66 billion compared to similar period of last FY.

The export incomes were \$2.06 billion from agricultural products, \$18.2 million from animal products, \$447 million from fishery products, \$971 million from minerals, \$153 million from forest products, \$4.42 billion from finished industrial goods and \$1.67 billion from other products.

Finished industrial goods topped the export revenue chart with estimated value of \$4.42 billion while animal products were noted at the bottom of the chart with the least earning.

The private sector's export earning is double the income

from the government sector. Export revenues via sea routes were \$6.3 billion, whereas border trade saw an estimated export value of \$3.44 billion.

The Commerce Ministry is endeavouring to increase the export earnings by laying down six main objectives: trade promotion, trade facilitation, trade negotiation, trade liberalization, trade education and consumer protection, according to its one-year performance under the incumbent government's period.

Previously, the country was heavily reliant only on extractive industries such as natural gas, timber, minerals. Now, production from those industries is declining and thus, Myanmar is emphasizing on export diversification into agriculture and industrial sectors. — Ko Htet ■

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Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu inspects the paving of Dai Kyi-Yat Thar Road yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rakhine Chief Minister inspects development of the state Rakhine

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, together with state ministers, met township administrative officials at the hall of the Ann administrative office yesterday morning.

At the meeting, township administrative officers reported on development during the 2017-2018 fiscal year, including rural development, electrification, bridges, education, health care, farming and irrigation.

Then Chief Minister and party met the officials of the B.E.H.S (1), (2) and (3), and parents of the students and discussed matters related to improving the educational standards in the region.

In the afternoon, they inspected the paving of Dai Kyi-Yat Thar Road and the San Htwe bridge project, which will connect Ann-Pa De Kyaw-Ma Ei Road, it was learnt.—Ann Township (IPRD) ■

Over 97,000 baskets of paddy farmed by displaced people of Maungtaw sold

As of 21 December, a total of 97,337 baskets of paddy farmed by Maungtaw region displaced people were harvested and sold, according to the Maungtaw District General Administration Department.

The paddy were reaped with the combine harvesters of Agricultural Mechanization Department and bagged by the Department of Agriculture. So far, the Maungtaw Merchants Association and the Rakhine Paddy Trading Company have mainly bought the grain. More merchants are now being invited.

The Maungtaw region borders the Bay of Bengal and has good climate for rice paddies. It is one of the major rice producing



Rice paddy field worker sorting, collecting and drying out rice in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: NAY WIN TUN**

regions of Rakhine State. Traders are now transporting the paddy grains of Maungtaw region by motor vehicles through the land routes of Maungtaw-A Ngu Maw and Maungtaw-Buthidaung and by vessels to the warehouses in Sittway.—Myint Maung/Zayar ■

Human Rights Commission meets communities in Maungtaw

A Myanmar human rights delegation met with Muslim villagers gathered at a beach in Maungtaw preparing to leave for Bangladesh, offering assistance to them for living in peace.

At the meeting, members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission asked if their rights were violated in Myanmar and their obstacles and reasons why they decided to leave for the neighboring country. The delegation members pledged to provide assistance to them if they want to live in peace in Myanmar.

Following the meeting, the members of the commission visited Kainggyi Village, where Mro ethnic people who fled from their villagers are being

sheltered. The new village of Kainggyi is under construction for Mro ethnic villagers, with 50 new houses constructed by Yangon Region Government, 64 houses by Bago Region Government and a school by Taninthayi Region Government.

Commission members also visited the Muslim village of Pantawpyin (Middle) village and inquired of their situation including the rule of law, education, health and livelihood of local villagers.

At the beginning of the trip yesterday, the delegation led by U Yu Lwin Aung and Dr. Myint Kyi, members of the commission, camps in Maungtaw where Hindu people are sheltering.—Myint Maung, Zeya ■

Over 500 in Maungtaw to be formally trained as teachers

Photo: Nay Win Tun

AN opening ceremony for a programme to train 500 teachers who are currently teaching kindergarten and first-grade classes was held in the B.E.H.S (2) Maungtaw school in Rakhine yesterday.

Township education officer U Khin Aung said that 500 teachers in Rakhine State will undergo training in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years.

The programme's aim is to implement effective education and reinforce the teachers who had been teaching without formal training due to various reasons.



U Khin Aung.



Daw Mya The Phyu.



U Aung Ko Lin.

Training for a total of 553 teachers, including 280 kindergarten teachers and 273 Grade 1 teachers, will be conducted for 10 days starting today. Many teachers in Maungtaw transferred to

other places following the 2016 terrorist attacks in Maungtaw, and were replaced with new teachers earning daily wages. "We draw up effective lesson plans for the KG classes

in order for them to be familiar with their surroundings. And we teach them many new lessons like playing with toys, reciting poems and so on", said Daw Mya The Phyu, a teacher from

Butheedaung Township.

Teacher U Aung Ko Lin was posted in Wet Kyein, Maungtaw. Out of 183 schools, 105 schools have reopened since the terrorist attacks. There are 80,000 students in Maungtaw and in Butheedaung alone who need effective teachers. Township Education Officer U Khin Aung explained that education is a driving force to shape the development of the region, and it can help the stability of the state where the number of the intelligentsia increases.

"We are going to implement systematic goals of education as much as we can", he said.—Myint Maung/Zaya ■

Phapros and Medi Myanmar agree to build Drug Factory in Yangon

JAKARTA. Phapros, a unit of state-owned Rajawali Nusantara Indonesia, established a joint venture with pharmaceutical giant Medi Myanmar Group to establish a non-antibiotic drug factory in Myanmar for an undisclosed investment amount.

The two companies signed a memorandum of understanding in Yangon, Myanmar, on Thursday (21/12).

“We are currently preparing for the establishment of a factory. Meanwhile, we are also looking at potential exports of over-the-counter medicines, or medicines dispensed without a doctor’s prescription,” Phapros president director Barokah “Emmy” Sri Utami said in a statement.

Medi Myanmar Group was established in 1991, with its main business involving the importation, marketing and distribution of pharmaceutical products.

Emmy said the joint venture will focus on the development of a drug factory on a 2-hectare area in the Yangon Industrial Estate.

The factory will initially produce capsules or non-antibiotic medicines before gradually expanding to intravenous medicines.

Phapros has strengthened its presence in Southeast Asia with its entry into the Myanmar market. The company also has a



From left, Indonesian Ambassador Ito Sumardi, Phapros president director Barokah ‘Emmy’ Sri Utami, Phapros president commissioner M. Yana Aditya and Medi Myanmar Group founder Win Si Thu after signing a memorandum of understanding in Yangon on 21 December 2017. **PHOTO: COURTESY OF PHAPROS**

factory in Cambodia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, while it is currently expanding to Central Asia and Africa.

Myanmar currently imports 90 percent of its pharmaceutical requirements, with around 45 percent of it from India, 35 percent from Thailand.

Emmy said Phapros is exploring an option to export its products to Myanmar in a bid to expand the company’s distribution area. The company is also seeking partnerships with other pharmaceutical firms in that country.

Southeast Asia has vast potential for pharmaceutical products. According to data compiled by global consulting firm Boston Consulting Group, the region is expected to generate around \$40 billion in pharmaceutical sales in 2020.

Meanwhile, the total value of Indonesia’s market for pharmaceutical products amounts to \$4.7 billion annually, which accounts for 27 percent of the total pharmaceutical market in Southeast Asia. —Jakarta Globe ■

Singapore stands at the top of chart with the largest investment this fiscal year

SINGAPORE put US\$1.71 worth of investments in 30 projects as of the end of November in the current fiscal year, followed by China with estimated investments of over \$1 billion in 43 enterprises.

According to statistics of MIC, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Netherlands, Thailand, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, the UAE, the UK, the USA, Viet Nam, Marshall Island, Norway, Qatar, Taiwan, etc invested in Myanmar.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has granted approval to 163 projects with foreign capital of \$4.47 billion this FY.

Foreign direct investments will be brought into manufacturing, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, power, transport and communication, hotel and tourism, real estate, industrial estate and other service sectors.

At present, Yangon Region attracted 60 per cent of local and foreign investments while Mandalay Region has received 30 per cent of total investment

so far. Only small investment amount flows into other regions and states.

New Myanmar Investment Law has tax exemption and relief to investors depending on developments of the regions and states. Investors in far-flung areas can enjoy tax break of seven years.

According to new Myanmar Investment Law, region and state DICA offices are authorized to give approval to investment proposals with capital of not more than US\$5 million (Ks6,000 million). —Htet Myat ■

“There is no power that can compare with the power of the support, trust and unity of the people. I believe that whatever difficulties we may have to face can be overcome by the power of the unity of our people.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered to the people by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor on 12 October, 2017)

PhaungtawOo Pagoda (Inle)



Photo: Aung Kyi Myint (U Kyi Win)

Myanmar-India trade tops \$940 million

BILATERAL trade with India since April was valued at nearly US\$940 million, including \$461 mn from the import sector and \$477 mn from the export sector, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar-India border trade as of this October totalled \$38.554 mn, comprised of \$30 mn from exports and \$8 mn from imports while bilateral trade by sea amounted to over \$900 mn, covering \$477 mn from exports and \$453 mn from imports.

Myanmar conducts border

trade with India mainly through the Tamu and Reed border points. However, the country mostly uses marine trade routes for bilateral imports and exports.

The country usually exports ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other kinds of fruits and vegetables, plus human hair, fishery and forest products to the neighbouring country and imports medicines, oil-cakes, electronic products, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials.—Shwe Khine ■

An Independence message to remember

“ONE-MAN-HEROIC-EFFORTS cannot bring about the Jewel of Independence. For all of us to enjoy human rights including the right to own property, it is the national cause for all of us to take part in the revolution for the Independence.” That is the real essence of the Independence Declaration to be delivered to the public at the mass meeting, which was written by Bogyoke Aung San at the meeting held on 1st March 1945 at his residence.

Before Myanmar gained Independence, all the people were suffering from lack of opportunities and the freedom to fashion their own destinies. At this time, Bogyoke Aung San urged the people to fight for their own rights. In doing so, a war was unavoidably to be launched. He told them to work relentlessly to get peace as soon as possible so that people could be liberated from all scourges of war forever.

In his own practical, simple way, Bogyoke Aung San worked hard for the sake of the country and the people. He devoted himself day and night to achieve Independence, peace and stability in the country and for the

For equality among all races and peace and tranquility across the country, we must all strive to build up nationwide peace.

guarantee of human rights for all citizens. On account of the selfless efforts of patriots led by Bogyoke Aung San and national leaders, Myanmar won her Independence on Sunday, 4th January 1948.

Nearly all of us were born just after gaining Independence, coming into the world by taking shelter under the protection of the National Flag of the Union of Myanmar. We and our descendants are blessed to have brave and wise

national leaders and patriotic forefathers for without their selfless struggle and dauntless courage, we would not be enjoying the fruits of Independence.

Our ancestors who had risked their lives for Independence are now no more. While living under harsh and difficult conditions all through their lives, our forefathers were able to bring forth a free and independent Union of Myanmar for the benefit of younger generations where they could live in peace and work for the fulfilment of their dreams.

On their part, our ancestors had to work very hard against all odds and dangers.

“A good beginning begets a good ending,” as the Myanmar saying goes. We will always remember the gratitude of our ancestors while enjoying benefits of freedom and independence. As said by our national leader Bogyoke Aung San, one-man-heroic-efforts cannot bring about the Jewel of Independence. For equality among all races and peace and tranquility across the country, we must all strive to build up nationwide peace.

We are now a sovereign and independent nation, living under our own national flag and having a government of the people, parliaments and our own Tatmadaw. What we need to do now is to build up a united country to be able to stand tall in the midst of all nations. That is, all citizens of our country need to be united and must learn how to live in peace and harmony with each other regardless of race or religion.

Wish for Progress of Electricity Sector, Major Necessity of the Nation!

By Ti Kyi Maung

INSUFFICIENCY of electricity, shortage of infrastructures including transportation and communication and lack of strengthened policies are being pointed out by most of the entrepreneurs from abroad who would invest in Myanmar. Lack of strengthened policies can be amended in a short period of time but it will take time and efficient investments to fulfill the need of power supply and better infrastructures.

Beneficial for multi-sectors

In building up our nation which is still full of many requirements into an economically developed country, it must be prioritized to revitalize the economic status of every individual. For the economic development it also needs to urgently implement investments in the sector of infrastructure including the projects of electricity. It is necessary for the State Government to make unconventional approach so as to get out of the vicious circle. Here, unconventional

approach is none other than consideration through methods beneficial for multi purposes.

On study of the electricity sector in Myanmar, it has been learnt that there have been electricity consumed by machines estimated at 5389 megawatts and 17866 billion watt hours [GWh]. In 2030, power requirement will be 14542 megawatts at a conservative estimate.

Objectives laid down

Myanmar has drawn up the National Electrification Plan—NEP. In 2020, it was targeted to electrify 50 percent of rural and urban areas, 75 percent in 2025 and 100 percent in 2030. To do so, electrification for the region within the reach of national power grid line will be carried out through on-grid electrification system whereas electrification for the region beyond the reach of national power grid line will be carried out through off-grid electrification system. Arrangements are being made for distributing power to houses through the power resources, solar energy, hydro-power and wind-operated electricity using

natural resources by building Mini-Grid lines under the off-grid line projects. Yet, the system focuses on nationwide electrification, not guaranteeing the production of power needed for the development of industries.

In making various approaches to fulfilling the national power requirement the State alone cannot invest in the projects of producing power. Only if arrangements had been made for acquisition of electricity simultaneously on the other hand, can guarantees be made for the national economic development.

Urgent need

Accordingly, the State Government invited investors from home and abroad to invest in the country. In some enterprises the government alone invested with in some enterprises local and international entrepreneurs invited to operate enterprises under the JV System [Joint Venture System] or BOT System [Build, Operate and Transfer System.] But, until now no one was found yet to energetically take part in implementing the acquisition of efficient energy. One of the

major causes is that reasonable power charges cannot be fixed yet so far, it was learnt. There may also be other causes. At the time when the State Government alone could not invest for national power urgent requirement, reluctance to invest in the projects as for the global investors may be attributed to uncertainty to get profits or lack of economic prospects of getting benefits.

Whatever it is, electricity requirement must be essentially solved out. To overcome the present difficulty electricity must be produced by the country or otherwise investors must be let to invest for production of electricity in the country. Provided that these two ways are unsuccessful, the third and last method of ‘cross border electricity trading must be chosen.

Cross border electricity trading will be currently convenient in the long run, as well as beneficial to the country in the long run because construction of infrastructures would have been built for other kinds of border cross trading as well in the future.

With a view to building ASE-



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

AN Power Grid, informal meetings were held at the ASEAN meetings starting from 1997, and now it is beginning to be implemented. Laos now renowned as the battery of South-East Asia managed to produce 30 billion kilowatts annually, selling 21.1 billion kilowatts to foreign countries. At the 35th ASEAN Energy Ministerial Meeting held in September 2017, Laos signed agreements with Malaysia and Thailand, to sell electricity from Laos to Malaysia via power grid lines in Thailand. In near future arrangements are underway to sell electricity from Laos to Singapore through Malaysia.

If Myanmar will approach to enter the sphere of the cross border electricity trading, at the initial period Myanmar will purchase electricity urgently needed for the country, but in future Myanmar will be able to sell its electricity product to neighboring countries such as China, India and other regional countries. Moreover, Myanmar

will have an access to hire its gridlines in electricity trading between neighboring countries.

Only if power requirements had been overcome

Only if electricity requirements has been managed to be overcome, economic reforms will be successfully able to be implemented with great momentum. No one will deny if it is said that adequacy of electricity is the vitality for the national economic development. It is necessary for the Government to make firm decisions with bravery in some cases, especially in such a time when electricity requirements are to be fulfilled in shortest period of time, while performing its tasks within the limited budget.

The major objective of the country is the acquisition of electricity with a meager amount of the investments from the Government in a short period of time, hence the need to focus on the success of our objectives. Translate by Khin Maung Oo

Evidence Suggests Ticks Fed on Dinosaurs

A new study indicates ticks sucked the blood of feathered dinosaurs some 99 million years ago, NPR reported.

Public Health Pests

Ticks sucked the blood of feathered dinosaurs some 99 million years ago, a new study suggests.

Modern ticks are infamous for biting humans and other mammals. But ticks are very ancient, and scientists who study their evolution have long wondered what (or who) the little vampires ate before there were lots of mammals to feed on. Feathered dinosaurs apparently were among the possible creatures on the menu.

The findings rely partially on amber specimens from Myanmar. In one of them, a tick is trapped in the hardened resin alongside a feather from a dinosaur that lived during the Cretaceous Period.

"Amber is fossilized resin, so it's able to capture small bits of the ecosystem almost instantly," says Ricardo Pérez-de la Fuente, a research fellow at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and an author of the study published Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications. "Amber can actually preserve interactions between organisms. This is the case with the feather and the grasping tick."

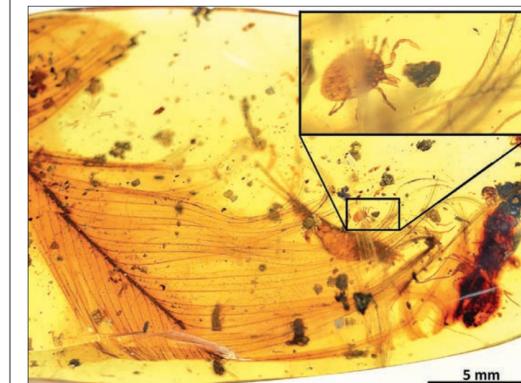
The tick-and-feather pair support a theory that Pérez-de la Fuente had already spent years developing, based on other ticks trapped in amber from the same period. Those ticks didn't have dinosaur feathers encased with them, but there were little hairs. The hairs resemble those left behind by a type of beetle larva that, today, lives in bird nests.

"We had this indirect evidence about the relationship between ticks and feathered dinosaurs," Pérez-de la Fuente says, but the researchers didn't have any direct evidence for the relationship until they saw the tick and feather trapped together in amber.

Mans cautions the evidence doesn't necessarily exclude other types of animals, since feathered dinosaurs were not the only ones that lived in nests. He also says follow-up research needs to be done to understand how a new ancient species of tick identified in the study fits into the bigger tick family tree.

Pérez-de la Fuente acknowledges there is more work to be done to clarify the ancient origins of ticks and their blood-sucking behaviors. For example, one amber specimen contains a tick engorged with blood, but Pérez-de la Fuente and his co-authors couldn't figure out how to analyze that blood because the tick wasn't entirely encased in amber, so the iron in the blood was contaminated with minerals.

That specimen and the others in the study were gathered in Myanmar, which is famous for its large amber deposits. "Private collectors had actually purchased the amber online," Pérez-de la Fuente says. One collector donated a piece of amber to the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Another helped analyze ticks in amber he purchased and is listed as an author of the new study.—Rebecca Hersher/ www.npr.org ■



A tick grasping a dinosaur feather is preserved in 99 million-year-old amber from Myanmar. PHOTO: PEÑALVER ET AL/NATURE COMMUNICATIONS

US Senate leader McConnell sees a more collegial 2018

WASHINGTON — US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Friday said a shifting landscape will lead him to work with Democrats on immigration and financial regulation early in the new year, following a year of acrimony and partisan legislation.

In an end-of-year news conference, McConnell touted a list of Republican accomplishments since President Donald Trump took office in January. It started with the confirmation of Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court and ended with an overhaul of the US tax code.

But in January, McConnell's already razor-thin 52-48 Republican majority will shrink to 51-49 with the swearing in of Senator-elect Doug Jones, the Democrat who surprised the political world with a win in a special election in the deeply Republican state of Alabama.

Adding to McConnell's difficulties, special Senate procedures are fading that allowed him to pass a tax bill and try to repeal the Affordable Care Act this year without any Democratic support.

That means that McConnell's victories — if he has them — will require more collaboration and less confrontation.

The pivot was the centerpiece of his news conference remarks.

"There are areas where I think we can get bipartisan agreement," McConnell said.



US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. PHOTO: REUTERS

First on his list was legislation to change Dodd-Frank banking regulations that he said would help smaller financial institutions.

The Kentucky senator noted that Senate Banking Committee Chairman Mike Crapo has advanced legislation that is co-sponsored by several Democrats.

McConnell also pointed to bipartisan efforts to help undocumented immigrants, known as "Dreamers," who were brought into the United States when they were children.

If negotiators from both parties can come to a deal for the Dreamers that Trump's adminis-

tration can support, "we'll spend floor time on that in January," McConnell said.

On Thursday, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer complained that throughout 2017 Republicans "have been hell-bent on pursuing a partisan agenda."

When asked by a reporter of possible bipartisan successes in 2018, Schumer pointed to the need for infrastructure improvements but said that Trump has been "all over the lot" on how to accomplish road, airport and other construction projects.

With the November 2018 congressional elections ap-

proaching, Democrats might have less incentive to cooperate with Republicans, especially after Schumer's party won decisive victories in special elections this month and last in Alabama and Virginia.

McConnell hinted it would be tougher to find agreement with Democrats on some other legislative issues, including welfare reform, which Trump says he wants to push ahead with in 2018.

McConnell said he would consult with Trump and House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan in January over prospects for welfare reform.—Reuters ■

Russia not to participate in "arms race" escalation with US — senator

MOSCOW — Russia is not going to participate in escalation of the "arms race" with the US, head of the Federation Council's defense and security committee, and former Commander-in-Chief of the Aerospace Force, Viktor Bondarev told TASS on Saturday.

"I would like to stress, Russia would not escalate the arms race, as we are not going to at-

tack anybody," he said. "This is why, it is not worth expecting the tension's escalation from our side."

"If this escalation may develop, then only from overseas, and its forms and scale are hard to predict."

The US military have been working on hypersonic weapons (its X-51 cruise missile has passed tests), the country

"threatens to quit the INF Treaty (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty — TASS), continue building up the nuclear potential," he continued.

"To every possible threat our state programme of weapons has a worthy response. But, at the same time, Russia focuses not on repelling possible attacks, but on continuing improvement of the country's

defence, on design and supplies of newest precision weapons and equipment," he said.

The new state programme to 2027 reflects "fundamental, not temporary, tasks," he stressed. They, in addition to the listed above, include development of the defence industry, further modernization of the Armed Forces, and high-quality training.—Tass ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Russian foreign ministry: Moscow ready to cooperate with US on Afghanistan — RIA

MOSCOW — Moscow stands ready to cooperate with the United States on Afghanistan, Russia's Foreign Ministry official said in an interview with RIA state news agency published on Saturday.

Russia maintains contacts with US acting Assistant Secretary of State Alice Wells, said Zamir Kabulov, special representative to the Russian president on Afghanistan and the head of Asian region department at the Foreign Ministry.—Reuters ■

Trump travel ban should not be applied to people with strong US ties — court

WASHINGTON — A US appeals court on Friday said a travel ban by President Donald Trump's administration targeting people from six Muslim-majority countries should not be applied to people with strong US connections.

The US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit also said its ruling will be put on hold pending a decision on the travel ban by US Supreme Court.—Reuters ■

Peru interior minister resigns following political crisis

LIMA — Peruvian Interior Minister Carlos Basombrio said President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski accepted his resignation on Friday after a political crisis engulfing the government nearly toppled the head of state over unproven graft allegations.

Basombrio made the announcement on Twitter without giving a reason. Kuczynski had confirmed in a televised interview on Sunday that Basombrio tried to resign last week but the president hoped he could persuade him to stay. Kuczynski thwarted a bid in Congress late Thursday to force him out, with the help of opposition lawmakers who want Kuczynski to pardon imprisoned ex-president Alberto Fujimori, who has served 12 years of a 25-year sentence for graft and human rights crimes.—Reuters ■

Ululations, tears as white Zimbabwean farmer returns to seized land

RUSAPE, (Zimbabwe) — The last time white Zimbabwean farmer Rob Smart left his land it was at gunpoint, forced out in June by riot police armed with tear gas and AK-47 assault rifles.

He returned on Thursday to ululations and tears of joy from former workers and their families who were also kicked out — a jubilant return and the first sign that the president who has replaced Robert Mugabe is making good on a vow to stop illegal land seizures and restore property rights.

Scores of jubilant black Zimbabweans nearly knocked the 71-year-old off his feet as he and his two children stepped out of their car and onto their land for the first time in six months.

Smart's case was taken up by Emmerson Mnangagwa, Zimbabwe's then vice-president who heard of Smart's violent eviction while at an investment conference in Johannesburg.

Mnangagwa became president last month following a de facto coup that ended 93-year-old Mugabe's rule. In the latter half of his 37 years in power,



Commercial farmer Darreyn Smart is welcomed at Lesbury Estates by village elders and children at a farm in Headlands communal lands east of the capital Harare, Zimbabwe on 21 December, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Zimbabwe's economy collapsed, especially after the seizure of thousands of white-owned commercial farms under the banner of post-colonial land reform.

Land ownership is one of

Zimbabwe's most sensitive political topics. Colonialists seized some of the best agricultural land and much of it remained in the hands of white farmers after independence in 1980 leaving

many blacks effectively landless.

Twenty years later, Mugabe authorized the violent invasion of many white-owned farms and justified it on the grounds that it was redressing imbalances from

the colonial era.

White farmers complained that well connected people used state security forces to force them off their farms, sometimes in the middle of harvesting, even after the Mugabe government indicated, some four years ago, that land seizures were over.

"We are overjoyed, over the moon. We thought we would never see this day coming," Smart's son, Darryn, told Reuters.

"Getting back to the farm has given not just us, but the whole community hope that it's a new Zimbabwe, a new country."

Rob Smart, whose father said he started the farm from "virgin bush" in 1932, expressed confidence in the new government's pledge to protect the commercial farming sector, a mainstay of the struggling economy.

"It's early days but so far what they (the new government) said they are going to do they are doing," he told Reuters.

"We just hope this whole incident will give hope to other farmers, who've had the same situation."—Reuters ■

Iraqi Shi'ite paramilitaries deploy to Syrian border

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Shi'ite paramilitary groups have deployed to the frontier to back up border guard forces who came under fire from within Syria over the past three days, one of their commanders said on Friday.

There was no immediate word on who opened fire from Syrian territory, but forces arrayed against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria expect the group will resort to guerrilla warfare after losing its urban bastions earlier this year.

"After several Iraqi border guard positions came under several attacks by missiles, and backup from security forces was late, the 13th brigade of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) was deployed and targeted the origins of the launch," PMF commander for west Anbar, Qassem Mesleh, said in a statement.

"Operations command and the infantry brigade are now present on the Iraqi-Syrian border in border guard positions to repel any attack or movement by the enemy," Mesleh said.

"This area is not within the PMF's remit but it is our duty to back up all security forces."

The PMF is an umbrella grouping of mostly Iran-backed and trained Shi'ite militias that formally report to Iraq's prime minister but are separate from the military and police.

Sunni Muslims and Kurds have called on Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to disarm the PMF, which they say are responsible for widespread abuses against their communities.

An Iraqi military spokesman confirmed the deployment. Brigadier General Yahya Rasool told Reuters it was temporary, however, and "very normal" because it was the PMF's duty to back up government forces.

The PMF were officially made part of the Iraqi security establishment by law and formally answer to Abadi in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

Abadi has said the state should have a monopoly on the legitimate use of arms.

Iraqi forces on 9 December recaptured the last swathes of territory still under Islamic State control along the frontier with Syria and secured the western desert.

It marked the end of the war against the militants, three years after they overran about a third of Iraq's territory.

Rasool, the military spokesman, denied backup to the border guards had been late.

"The primary responsibility for the borders lies with the border guards and the army, however," said Rasool.

He said Iraqi forces coordinate with both the Syrian army, which is backed by Russia, Iran and Iran-backed Shi'ite militias, and the US-backed alliance of Kurdish and Arab militias known as the Syrian Democratic Forces opposed to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

He said parts of Syria — including many areas on the border with Iraq — were still under Islamic State control. —Reuters ■

Driver charged with attempted murder over Australian vehicle attack

MELBOURNE — The man accused of deliberately ploughing into Christmas shoppers on a busy street in the Australian city of Melbourne was charged on Saturday with 18 counts of attempted murder.

The Thursday incident was the second serious vehicle attack in Australia's second biggest city this year.

Police said they had charged the man, former Afghanistan refugee Saeed Noori, after formally interviewing him about the attack that police had earlier described as a "deliberate act".

Police have said Noori, 32, is known to have mental health problems and to use drugs and they did not believe the attack was terrorism-related.

Police suspect Noori was behind the wheel of a white SUV when he deliberately sped up and drove into dozens of pedestrians crossing the road at one of the busiest intersections in Melbourne's central business

district.

Noori is set to appear in a Magistrates Court later on Saturday.

Islamist militants have used vehicles to attack people several times in Europe and the United States over the past couple of years.

In January, six people were killed in Melbourne's central business district when a man used his vehicle to mow them down. Police also ruled out terrorism for that attack.

Following the January incident, authorities installed 140 concrete bollards in the city centre.

Victoria State premier Daniel Andrews said 12 people remained in hospital, including three who in critical condition.

He said there would be an increased police presence at Melbourne events, including the Boxing Day Test Cricket, carols and other major sports events.—Reuters ■

Reconnaissance squads in east Russia give Ratnik combat gear the 'deep freeze' test

MOSCOW — Reconnaissance squads of a combined-arms army stationed in the Amur, Jewish Autonomous and Khabarovsk Regions in the Russian Far East have tested the Ratnik combat gear in winter conditions during a two-day reconnaissance raid, the Eastern Military District reported on Friday.

"The servicemen wearing the winter version of the Ratnik combat outfit acted autonomously for about 40 hours at one of the district's training ranges, accomplishing the tasks of carrying out surveillance and gathering data on a notional enemy, and also setting ambushes," the Eastern Military District's press office reported.

"While practicing combat training missions, the servicemen acted on the predominantly mountainous-woody and steppe terrain with air temperatures ranging from minus 23 degrees Celsius in the daytime to minus 35 degrees Celsius at night," the press office said.

The servicemen gave high marks to the combat gear in winter conditions, praising its functional camouflage abilities, the warming element, the heat-insulating mat and the footwear.



An advanced Ratnik-3 combat gear with an integral exoskeleton and a helmet visor-mounted target designation system is currently being developed for Russia's Armed Forces. PHOTO: TASS

Following the tests, recommendations were worked out for using the combat gear in the conditions of the Far Eastern winter. Over 1,000 Ratnik outfits arrived for military units and formations of the Eastern Military District in May.

The Ratnik is a system of advanced protective and communication equipment, weapons

and ammunition. It comprises around 40 protective and life support elements and allows a soldier to get continuously updated information about the situation in the combat area.

In addition, the Ratnik includes a self-contained heater, a backpack, an individual water filter, a gas mask and a medical kit.

The second-generation Ratnik combat gear has been arriving for Russia's ground forces, the Airborne Force and marines since 2016. An advanced Ratnik-3 combat gear with an integral exoskeleton and a helmet visor-mounted target designation system is currently being developed for Russia's Armed Forces.—Tass ■

Ukraine's Poroshenko vows to work for quick exchange of prisoners-Germany

BERLIN — Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko told German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday that he would work to implement a rapid exchange of prisoners held on both sides of the line of conflict in eastern Ukraine, a spokesman for Merkel said on Friday.

Merkel spoke by telephone with Poroshenko on Friday, a day after she spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the spokesman said.

Merkel and Poroshenko welcomed a decision by the parties to recommit to a ceasefire agreement signed in 2015 ahead of the Christmas holiday, and both agreed it should lead to a longer-term improvement of the security situation in the region.

A Russia-backed separatist insurgency erupted in 2014 and the bloodshed has continued despite the ceasefire. More than 10,000 people have been killed, with casualties reported on a near-daily basis.—Reuters ■

Police evacuate Bonn Christmas market, probe suspicious package

BERLIN — Police brought in experts and an explosives robot to investigate a suspicious package found at the Christmas market in the west German city of Bonn late on Friday.

Bonn police cordoned off and evacuated a large area of the market just before 9 pm local time, and experts were still examining the object five hours

later, a spokesman said.

"We assume it's not dangerous, but we're still investigating," the spokesman said. He said the object was discovered shortly before the market was to close for the evening, so it was not crowded. Germany is on high alert for potential attacks a year after failed Tunisian asylum seeker Anis Amri killed 12 people

when he hijacked a truck and drove it into a crowded Berlin Christmas market.

Chancellor Angela Merkel, marking the first anniversary of the attack on Tuesday, said Germany should learn from security shortcomings exposed in the incident.

German authorities evacuated part of a Christmas market

in Potsdam near Berlin earlier this month after a package containing powerful firecrackers, wires and nails was delivered to a nearby pharmacy.

Officials later said that criminals had used the incident to try to extort millions of euros from logistics firm DHL, which had delivered the package.—Reuters ■

Firefighters tackle blaze at London Zoo

LONDON — More than 70 firefighters were tackling a blaze at London Zoo on Saturday after fire broke out at the attraction's cafe and shop, the fire brigade said.

There were no reports of any animals affected by the blaze which broke out shortly after 0600 GMT, London Fire Brigade said, although the fire was near an area where visitors can handle and feed animals. "Approximately three quarters of an adventure café and shop and half of the roof is currently alight," the fire brigade said in a statement.

Ten fire engines were sent to the zoo, located in Regent's Park in central London, and the cause of the fire was not yet known, the statement added. "ZSL London Zoo is currently dealing with an incident on site. We will update as quickly as the situation allows," the zoo said on Twitter.—Reuters ■

China punishes over 8,000 people for misuse of government funds — Xinhua

SHANGHAI — China has punished 8,123 people for committing fiscal violations after an audit of how the government's 2016 central budget was spent revealed multiple problems, the Xinhua state news agency reported.

Hu Zejun, head of the National Audit Office, announced the infringements while briefing lawmakers on Saturday,

Xinhua said. A broad anti-graft campaign in China, aimed at rooting out deep-seated corruption in the ruling Communist Party, including the misuse or embezzlement of government funds, has ensnared more than 1.3 million officials.

Hu said that of the offenders, 970 were punished for misusing funds earmarked for a poverty relief campaign intended to

lift everyone in rural areas out of poverty by 2020. Another 1,363 were punished for irregularities in the use of funds meant to provide affordable housing, she said.

She said 800 people in state-owned enterprises and 73 people in eight major banks were found to have committed violations, along with 505 people who were punished for malpractice involving medical insurance funds.

Hu also said about 48 billion yuan (\$7.30 billion) of the funds earmarked for affordable housing projects had been left unused for more than year, she said, while another 1.37 billion yuan of misused funds were recovered. The unused affordable housing funds had since been put to use, she said. Hu gave no details of what punishment the violators faced.—Reuters ■

China, India agree to properly handle border issues

NEW DELHI — Senior officials of China and India have agreed to properly handle border issues so as to jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in their border areas.

At the 20th round of talks between Chinese and Indian special representatives on boundary issues in the Indian capital on Friday, Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi exchanged views with Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on bilateral ties, border issues and international and regional issues of common concern.

Both sides said the China-India relations have maintained the momentum of steady development under the guidance of leaders of both countries, and common grounds between the two countries far outweigh their differences.

Both China and India should better manage



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) meets with visiting Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi in New Delhi on 22 December, 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

and handle differences in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-

existence and in the spirit of mutual respect and accommodation of each

other's concerns, they said. Yang and Doval agreed to strengthen

strategic communication and boost strategic mutual trust so as to push forward exchanges and cooperation in various fields and achieve common development.

Both sides believed to settle border disputes at an early date suits the fundamental interests of both countries. The two parties should strengthen coordination and communication, properly handle relevant border issues, and safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas.

Both sides also decided to give full play to the important role of talks between the special representatives on boundary issues, maintain contacts and negotiation, and boost strategic dialogue and communication in a bid to create favorable conditions for the development of the China-India relations.—Xinhua ■

Santa Claus comes to town riding an elephant in Thailand

BANGKOK — A troupe of elephants bearing presents visited students in Thailand's old capital of Ayutthaya on Friday to spread Christmas cheer.

Four elephants, with their mahouts were dressed in Santa Claus suits, arrived at Ayutthaya's Jirasartwithaya School to hand out toys, balloons and snacks to delighted children.

"I'm so glad today because elephants are coming to school. And they are giving presents", said nine-year-old Patcharamon Udomsanti.

The elephants also entertained the children with some dance moves, shaking their tails from side to side.

"It's so nice that they can share our festival. We share it with them, and the Thai share their festivals with us like Songkran," said Rita Laureys, a Belgian teaching English in Thailand, referring to the Thai new year.

Thailand is a predominantly Buddhist country, with Christians making up only about 0.7 per cent of the population, nevertheless, many people enjoy Christmas festivities.—Reuters ■

Japanese rocket positions 2 satellites in different orbits

TANEGASHIMA, (Japan) — Japan successfully placed two satellites in different orbits on Saturday using one rocket, a first for the country and a feat it hopes will enable future launch costs to be reduced.

The H-2A rocket took off from the Tanegashima Space Centre in southwestern Japan at 10:26 am, carrying a climate research Shikisai satellite and a low altitude test satellite, named Tsubame. The sat-

ellites will travel in orbits at altitudes of 800 kilometres and lower than 300 km, respectively.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, working in conjunction with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd, hopes that the successful launch will in future allow it to dispatch multiple satellites using one rocket. Up until now, each of the agency's satellites has been launched individually.

The H-2A rocket first

released Shikisai into orbit before conducting two engine burns to decelerate and descend to an altitude of around 480 km where Tsubame separated.

Shikisai will travel on a path that will see it return to the same orbit after a certain period, allowing it to investigate changes in water circulation and the mechanisms involved in climate change over a set time. Tsubame, equipped with an ion engine which

uses fuel more efficiently than gas jet propulsion, will maneuver into lower orbits of 300 km or below and be assessed for its ability to stably travel at low altitudes where atmospheric resistance is about 1,000 times greater than that experienced by most Earth observation satellites which travel at an altitude of 600 to 800 km. When Tsubame reaches an altitude of 270 km some 15 months after launch, it will be tested to

see whether it can maintain that altitude using its thrusters, with the goal to have it gradually descend to an altitude of 180 km.

Currently, orbits lower than 300 km are undeveloped and have yet to be fully utilized by satellites, according to JAXA. Positioning a satellite in low orbit enables the possibility of capturing high-resolution images, among other potential functions.—Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SHIBA VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SHIBA VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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 LAND AND SEA
SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-12-2017 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.

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Aaron Sorkin finds unlikely feminist heroine in 'Molly's Game'

LOS ANGELES — When writer and producer Aaron Sorkin met with Molly Bloom, the 'poker princess' who ran high-stakes games with Hollywood's top celebrities, he did not expect to be impressed.

"I thought the person that I was going to be meeting was someone who was cashing in on their brush with famous people, which is not something I'm a huge fan of," Sorkin said.

"But I was stupid and that's not the person that I met ... This was an incredibly compelling woman."

Sorkin, best known for creating the political TV series "The West Wing," makes his directorial debut with "Molly's Game," adapted from Bloom's book of the same name. The film is out in US theatres on 25 December.



Writer Aaron Sorkin. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bloom's book chronicles poker games she ran from 2002 to 2011 that drew celebrities such as Tobey Maguire, Leonardo

DiCaprio and Ben Affleck and helped her rake in \$4 million a year at her peak. Bloom, now 39, was once charged with running

an illegal gambling business and was sentenced in 2014 to a year of probation and 200 hours of community service.

Sorkin said he was impressed that Bloom refused to divulge names and secrets of her high-profile clients other than those already named in court documents.

"I think that her character resonates in a remarkable way that frankly I don't think any of us could have really seen coming. She is a feminist icon, but it is her own brand of feminism," he said.

An accident prevents Bloom, played by Jessica Chastain, from qualifying for the US Olympic skiing team in 1999. She heads to Los Angeles, where she meets a man who runs a celebrity-filled high-stakes poker game.

Bloom takes over running the private game, curating the players, the environment, being the bank and keeping powerful men in line under her rules. But her luck runs out and the FBI come for her, so she recruits the help of a lawyer, played by Idris Elba.

"I just had this feeling that there is a unique movie heroine here and that this isn't a poker movie," Sorkin said.

Chastain said she also "completely misjudged" Bloom before she got to know her, but understands her better now that she's walked in her shoes on screen.

"I didn't understand that she was playing a part that she thought she had to play to find success in that industry," Chastain said.—Reuters ■

Rio ballerinas struggle amid Brazil's financial crisis

RIO DE JANEIRO — Rio de Janeiro's opulent Municipal Theatre has gone quiet this year as months of unpaid wages emptied its calendar of major works and pushed many ballerinas and opera singers into poverty.

The gold and marble theatre located in Rio's historic downtown had celebrated the wealth of the city when it was built at the turn of the 20th century. But now, dancers' dwindling performance schedules and their ragged ballet slippers reveal just how far Rio has fallen.

"It's gotten to the point that, it's funny to say, I don't even have money for a bus ticket. I could pay my basic bills and feed myself or I could pay for the bus," said dancer Bruno Fernandes, a member of the Municipal Theatre Ballet Corps.

The 33-year-old now pedals to training on a borrowed bike, but three crashes in hectic Rio traffic have left him with an inflamed hip that he fears could shorten his career.

Salaries have been delayed intermittently since 2015 as Rio's finances began to falter from a deep recession and the cost of hosting the 2016 Olympic Games. But dancers and singers say the crisis now is unprecedented in the theatre's history.

Fernandes is among a group



Ballerinas of Municipal Theatre ballet school, prepare backstage before a rehearsal for their year-end performance, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 5 December, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

of theatre staff who have not received salaries since November, including an obligatory year-end bonus for 2017 that Brazilians count on.

The theatre is funded by the Rio state government, which said it is working to correct the situation.

"The delay is not the result of a lack of importance the administration places on the theatre, but a lack of available cash resources," Rio state's finance agency told Reuters in a statement. "The salaries will be paid as fast as possible in accordance with resources available."

Rio state's massive deficit this year led to cut backs in es-

sential services like policing, causing the national government to send in the army to quell violence at times, and prompting a federal rescue plan announced in September to help stabilise the state's finances.

A first installment of a 2.9 billion-reais (655 million pounds) loan allowed the state government on Wednesday to pay Municipal Theatre workers their unpaid 2016 year-end bonuses as well as October salaries. Another installment expected to be released in January will go towards November salaries, the state finance agency said.

In the meantime, many performers have taken up odd jobs.

One dancer has even sold off some furniture, started driving a mototaxi and teaching lessons in a makeshift home studio with his cat looking on.

Another performer has done the same.

"I teach singing, I apply Reiki (Japanese alternative medicine), I have a small shop in my house, I organize events," said Monica Maciel, a singer for the theatre since 1999. "I do it all, everything I can."

Dozens of dancers continue to attend exacting rehearsals and refine their craft with each leap and pirouette. But they say insufficient sleep as they work multiple jobs and lack of money for expenses like ballet pointe shoes, physical therapy and nutrition regimens is taking its toll.

Girls in pink tutus still attend lessons despite the poor prospects on display for a career ballerina. The slow artistic starvation can be as much of strain as poor finances. In the past year, the theatre put on a cantata and an opera with volunteers, but none of its traditional ballet performances.

"For an artist, to not be on the stage, to not put your work on stage is a thing that will kill us little by little," said Deborah Ribeiro, the theatre's lead solo ballerina.—Reuters ■

Japan-Indonesia art project connects tsunami-hit Aceh, Tohoku

BANDA ACEH, (Indonesia) — A group of colorfully dressed girls performed an energetic traditional welcome dance for Japanese artist Takashi Murakami, who was visiting their elementary school in Banda Aceh, the capital of Indonesia's westernmost province of Aceh, for a tree-planting event on Friday morning.

After planting trees with other volunteers in 16 locations in the Tohoku area of northeastern Japan that was devastated by a tsunami in March 2011, Murakami came to Aceh, which experienced an even worse tsunami in December 2004, to do the same. But instead of planting cherry trees, or "sakura," as part of the Sakura 3-11 Project that he co-founded, he and the Acehnese students planted champak trees, locally known as jeumpa, whose fragrant flowers are popular in Aceh, just like sakura blossoms are in Japan.

Right after the planting, he handed off a sakura baton, such as used in a relay race, to one of the students, while noting it is the 17th school he has visited to plant trees and the first outside of Tohoku.—Kyodo News ■

Italian chef's new restaurant chain: free food made from scraps

MILAN — Italian Michelin-starred chef Massimo Bottura plans to open two new restaurants in Paris and Naples next year, but wealthy diners are not welcome. The food will be free, made from supermarket scraps and served only to the poor.

Bottura's prestigious restaurant in Modena, northern Italy, charges around 250 euros a head.

But in Milan, his Refettorio Ambrosiano feeds the poor, many of them homeless — and now he plans to expand the charitable experiment further.

Housed in an old theater on the outskirts of the city, the Refettorio cooks free meals with

leftovers from shops, following recipes created by Bottura and other famous cooks.

"I never thought these ingredients were waste," he told Reuters. "I always thought bread crumbs, some overripe tomatoes, brown bananas, they are just opportunities for us. To show what we can do with our creativity."

Bottura started the project in 2015 to reuse leftovers from the eateries of Milan's international Expo. With the support of church foundation Caritas Ambrosiana, the initiative has become a permanent project.

Unlike traditional soup kitchens, guests don't queue.

Everyone gets served at the table. "I call it a restaurant, not a soup kitchen," Bottura said.

This limits the number of daily guests to 96, but Bottura and Caritas say it helps them regain confidence and take back control of their lives.

"Quantity does not define success," said Caritas head Luciano Gualzetti. "The way you offer your help is the key and it is even more important what your help can trigger in them."

About one-third of the food produced worldwide each year, around 1.3 billion tonnes, is wasted or lost, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.—Reuters ■



A staff member of Refettorio Ambrosiano prepares a dinner in Milan, Italy on 19 December, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



Santas from Sweden (R) and Russia race on their sleighs pulled by reindeers during a competition in the Santa Claus Wintergames in northern Swedish town of Gällivare on 20 November, 2005. PHOTO: REUTERS

Swedish roofs can handle Santa's sleigh — if he's

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's houses should be able to cope when Santa and his sleigh land on their snowy roofs this Christmas — as long as he doesn't try to deliver too many presents in one go.

The portly Father Christmas probably weighs about 150 kg (330 lb) and his reindeer and sleigh a tonne, the Swedish construction company NCC calculated, allowing another 50 kg for gifts.

Swedish building requirements would easily handle that weight, plus 50 per cent extra

pressure from the force of the landing on the roof, and half a meter of snow, construction designer Thomas Lecher said.

However, presents for all the world's 2 billion children, as well as a sack big enough to hold them, would weigh at least 200,000 tonnes if delivered on a single run.

"Under that sort of pressure, a Swedish house would be about as strong as paper," Lecher said.

"But it is clear as day that he has access to some sort of Christmas magic." —Reuters ■

Behold the Christmas story — in a limestone cave

LJUBLJANA — One of the world's largest limestone caves, the Postojna Cave in western Slovenia, is a long way from a stable in Bethlehem, but its traditional living nativity is getting more than shepherds and wise men visiting.

The annual performance — staged along a 5 km (3 mile) path inside the cave — has become one of Slovenia's top tourist attractions.

"It is definitely a special feeling to sing in what is essentially a natural cathedral, created by nature, the acoustics of the space are entirely different," said Slovenian opera singer Irena Yebuah Tiran who is performing in the spectacle this year.

The tradition of living nativity scenes started in 1989 and

features costumed performers, actors and singers amid light and sound effects.

This year 150 performers are acting out the Biblical story of Christmas in 16 scenes set along the path.

The nativity scenes will be open to the general public for six days, starting on 25 December, and organisers expect some 17,000 visitors from all over the world to come and enjoy the unique spectacle.

The cave itself was formed over millions of years and became well known and a tourist spot in the early 19th century, later to be served by an underground train.

Graffiti on some of the walls, however, are said to date as far back as the 13th century.—Reuters ■



Actors perform the real-life Nativity biblical scenes in Postojna cave, in Postojna, Slovenia on 21 December, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Yangon defeats Zwegapin in football friendly

YANGON United celebrated victory 4-2 on Zwegapin United in football friendly match yesterday at the Yangon United Sports Complex in Yangon.

Yangon United lined up with three of its main expatriate players Yamasaki, Emmanuel and Cassio and one national team member, star player Yan Aung Kyaw.

Nine minutes after the match began, the icebreaking goal was scored by Yangon's Yamasaki with a penalty shot.

Yangon padded its lead at the 30-minute mark when Emmanuel scored with an assist from teammate Yan Aung Kyaw.

In the second half, Yangon

made some substitutions with additional stellar players and the quality of the play increased.

Yangon's Cassio showed some flashy tricks over Zwegapin Goalie and earned the team's third goal of the match just after the start of the second half.

At 56-minute mark, Zwegapin fought back with a goal by Pyone Cho. Zwegapin players felt more confident after their first goal, and at 60 minutes, Zwegapin's Paulo scored with a beautiful kick into the net.

But Yangon level of play did not wane, resulting in the fourth and winning goal by Cassio at the 89-minute mark.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■



Players from Yangon and Zwegapin United vie for the ball in yesterday's match at Yangon United's Sport Complex. PHOTO:YUFC

Myanmar football's FIFA ranking jumps 10 levels

Kyaw Zin Lin

MYANMAR Football's world ranking jumped 10 levels, from 140 to 150, according to a FIFA announcement yesterday.

In the previous month, Myanmar stood in 150th place in FIFA's rankings, 22 levels higher than the previous March.

In previous FIFA-recognised international football friendly matches, Myanmar drew with India 2-2 in away play, drew with Kyrgyzstan 2-2 in home play and defeated Malaysia 1-0 in home play.

As Myanmar stands 140 in

the FIFA World Ranking, 27th in Asia, and 4th in the ASEAN region.

The Myanmar national football team, then known as the Burma national football team, finished second in the 1968 Asian Cup. They participated in the Summer Olympics in 1972 and in the Asian Games.

The Burma team was dominant in Asia in the 1960s and 1970s, having won the Asian Games twice; in 1966 and 1970, and the Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) on five successive occasions; in 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971 and 1973. During this golden era, the Burma team

produced several talented footballers including Suk Bahadur, a Burmese football star that many consider the greatest Myanmar footballer of all time. Since then, Myanmar's highest achievement was a silver medal in 1993.

However, under the team's rebuilding years, Myanmar football has witnessed significant progress. The U-20 Myanmar team stunned the world by qualifying for the FIFA tournament for the first time ever in the 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup, after advancing all the way to the semi-finals in the 2014 AFC U-19 Championship as the host team. ■

Milner urges Liverpool to become 'more boring' after Arsenal draw

LONDON — Liverpool must learn to switch off their attacking flair and tighten up defensively in certain situations to prevent opponents from scoring, midfielder James Milner said after Friday's frantic 3-3 draw with Arsenal in the Premier League.

Liverpool held a 1-0 lead at half-time and made it 2-0 early in the second half but their defensive frailties were exposed once again as Arsenal scored thrice in five minutes to take the lead before Roberto Firmino equalised in the 71st minute. "We've got to be more boring. Obviously we're very good going forward but those are the times in the game when you've got to tighten up, not make mistakes for those five minutes," Milner told Sky Sports. "All the goals were our fault, really, and that's something

we have to learn from and we need to do it quick, because it seems to be a thing for us this year. "We play such good football and sometimes we just need to switch that off for five to 10 minutes in a game and learn about the game, sense the situations when it's time to take it easy, play a bit tighter and keep the ball..." Liverpool's poor defending has constantly negated their free-flowing attack this season with the team hosting prolific goalscorers in Mohamed Salah, Philippe Coutinho, Sadio Mane and Firmino, but failing to keep the door shut on their opponents. Juergen Klopp's side sit 17 points behind league leaders Manchester City in fourth position, having conceded the most goals among the league's top four teams. —Reuters ■

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Khin Moh Moh Aung
Yadanabon University

IN the world, women are surviving as species of human beings. Not only in the earlier time but also in the present time, women take part in the important matters. Some of the women are living with their family at home and doing house works, daily chores and serving their husbands' and children's needs. Some of them are living alone and working themselves. Some of them, however, are doing for the others, helping the others or doing humanitarian activities. Different women are living in different areas of the world with different lifestyles. However, the thing we should not neglect is that every three women on the world are being oppressed with violence. Why does this matter exist? We need to think about it. Most of the people believe that "The World is Male-Dominant". Most may think women cannot beat men by strength. But they can beat men by intellect, creative thinking and capabilities. There are so many women who led the world and are leading the world. But some men want to oppress women by using their strength. The above matter mostly occurs between

husbands and wives, between boy-friends and girlfriends.

In the earlier times, most of women did not learn language and literature. The only thing they do was that they got marriage when they were adult and lived at the husbands' houses and did daily chores. So, their life was simple and just depended upon their husbands. There were women who had been oppressed in the earlier times. However, people could not help them. Nowadays, there are women who are working for women cannot tolerate the oppressiveness with violence. Moreover, they are trying to create gender equality network. They help the women who are being victims under violence. Some of the women tolerate the violence for their children and some for their love. The women who help these ones explain that "Zero tolerance for Violence". On the other hand, most of single girls on the world are facing with dangerous men. Some of inhumane men are waiting their victims to do inhumanity doings. Therefore, most of women are living in the dangerous area. We, all of humane people need to help them to escape from that area.

Everybody needs to help the women who are being manhandled. If so,

we all will be the humane persons. Women are also humans and so, they should not be discriminated by men in every areas (school, work, public areas, etc.). Discrimination is a kind of breaking human right. Thusly, we have to avoid discrimination and try to cease-and-desist women abuse thinking "Women are not Underdogs".

Unity in Diversity

*Black and White:
Left and Right:
Day and Night:
Dark and Light:

*However different the conditions
Keep them all in good positions.

*With the aim of Win-Win development
Let's make a harmonious agreement.

*Think high of what to pay
What to gain not to say.

*Not for... self, but for National Family
Create and form up unconditional Unity.

Shwe Kyay (YUFL)



Women are not Underdogs

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

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Basic English Grammar for Basic Students

Lesson 32 : Voices (Active Voice and Passive Voice) 4

Hello Students!

Today's Lesson is your 4th Lesson for Active and Passive Voices. In the previous weeks, we have studied about Active and Passive Voices for Simple (Present, Past, Future) Tenses, Continuous Tenses (Present, Past, Future) and for Perfect Tenses (Present, Past, Future).

Today, we are going to study about Perfect Continuous Tenses (i.e. Present Perfect Continuous, Past Perfect Continuous and Future Perfect Continuous).

Look at the following examples on Present Perfect Continuous Tense.

- (1) The girls have been plucking the flowers.
The flowers have been being plucked by the girls.
- (2) Children have been eating ice-creams.
Ice-creams have been being eaten by children.
- (3) Mother has been cooking rice and curry.
Rice and Curry have been being cooked by mother.
- (4) She has been feeding the cats.
The cats have been being fed by her.
- (5) They have been playing football.
Football has been being played by them.
- (6) Daddy has been practicing tennis.
Tennis has been being practiced by Daddy.
- (7) I have been watering the plants.
The plants have been being watered by me.
- (8) She has been writing the letter.
The letter has been being written by her.
- (9) They have been doing the cleaning.

The cleaning has been being done by them.

(10) You have been listening the music.

Music has been being listened by you.

Here in the examples, I have shown you all in the Present Perfect Continuous Tense.

To change these into Passive Voice, follow the following steps.

Step (1) Put the Object into the front of the sentence.

Step (2) See whether it is Singular or Plural. If it is Singular, use "has been" and use "have been" if it is Plural.

Note that this is for the 3rd Person Singular.

For the 1st Person and 2nd Person, use "have been" for both Singular and Plural.

Step (3) Put "being" for the Continuous Tense and then

Step (4) Put the Past Participle of the Verb.

Step (5) Put "by" and the "doer of the Verb at the end.

The formula is the same for Past Perfect Continuous and Future Perfect Continuous Tenses.

The only thing is instead of "has been" or "have been", we use "had been" for both Singular and Plural Numbers for Past Perfect Continuous Tense. (for all Persons)

For the Future Perfect Continuous Tense, we use "will have been" for all persons (1st, 2nd or 3rd persons) and for both Singular and Plural Numbers.

Other steps of putting "being" for the Continuous Tense and the Past Participle of the Verbs and

To put "by the doer of the Verb" are the same.

Here comes the Exercises.

Exercise 32

I. Change the following sentences into Passive Voice.

- (a) Children have been playing football.
- (b) I have been singing a new song.
- (c) We have been having our breakfast.
- (d) You have been doing your homework.
- (e) He has been watering the plants.
- (f) Aunt Mary has been baking cheese cakes.
- (g) Uncle Sam has been driving his new car.
- (h) She has been painting a new portrait.
- (i) They have been packing up their clothes.
- (j) Teachers have been preparing their lessons.

II. (A) Change the sentences in No. I into Past Perfect Continuous first and then

(B) Change them into Passive Voice.

III. (A) Change the sentences in No. I into Future Perfect Continuous First and then

(B) Change them into Passive Voice.

That's all for today's lesson. Hope that all of you can do these exercises very well!

See you next week Class!. Bye for now!

Your English Teacher (GNLM)

Email: <dr.nunuwintin.rose.dawn@gmail.com>

Here are the answers for the last week's exercise.

Exercise 31.

I. Change into Passive Voice.

- (a) Football has been played by children.
 - (b) A new song has been sung by me.
 - (c) Our breakfast has been had by us.
 - (d) Your homework has been done by you.
 - (e) The plants have been watered by him.
 - (f) Cheese cakes have been baked by Aunt Mary.
 - (g) His new car has been driven by Uncle Sam.
 - (h) A new portrait has been painted by her.
 - (i) Their clothes have been packed up by them.
 - (j) Their lessons have been prepared by teachers.
- (N.B. There is a correction in Exercise 31. In No. I (h) the correct sentence should be "(h) She has painted a new portrait.)

II. (A) To change into Past Perfect Tense.

- (a) Children had played football.
- (b) I had sung a new song.
- (c) We had had our breakfast.
- (d) You had done your homework.

- (e) He had watered the plants.
- (f) Aunt Mary had baked cheese cakes.
- (g) Uncle Sam had driven his new car.
- (h) She had painted a new portrait.
- (i) They had packed up their clothes.
- (j) Teachers had prepared their lessons.

(B) To change into Passive Voice.

- (a) Football had been played by children.
- (b) A new song had been sung by me.
- (c) Our breakfast had been had by us.
- (d) Your homework had been done by you.
- (e) The plants had been watered by him.
- (f) Cheese cakes had been baked by Aunt Mary.
- (g) His new car had been driven by Uncle Sam.
- (h) A new portrait had been painted by her.
- (i) Their clothes had been packed up by them.
- (j) Their lessons had been prepared by teachers.

III. (A) To change into Future Perfect Tense.

- (a) Children will have played football.
- (b) I will have sung a new song.
- (c) We will have had our breakfast.

- (d) You will have done your homework.
- (e) He will have watered the plants.
- (f) Aunt Mary will have baked cheese cakes.
- (g) Uncle Sam will have driven his new car.
- (h) She will have painted a new portrait.
- (i) They will have packed up their clothes.
- (j) Teachers will have prepared their lessons.

(B) To change into Passive Voice.

- (a) Football will have been played by children.
- (b) A new song will have been sung by me.
- (c) Our breakfast will have been had by us.
- (d) Your homework will have been done by you.
- (e) The plants will have been watered by him.
- (f) Cheese cakes will have been baked by Aunt Mary.
- (g) His new car will have been driven by Uncle Sam.
- (h) A new portrait will have been painted by her.
- (i) Their clothes will have been packed up by them.
- (j) Their lessons will have been prepared by teachers.

That's all for today.

Hope that you all have done your exercises very well!

Bye Bye Class ! See you next week!

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How to Attain Mental Health for Teachers (2)

Dr. Nu Nu Win
(Retired Professor and Head of Department)

In the article last week, the author has mentioned three factors to attain Mental Health of Teachers. These are : ..

- (1) Well-paid Salary or Efficient Salary,
- (2) Conditions of Security and
- (3) Fairness from the Upper-hands .

Today, she wants to continue to add more factors to attain Mental Health of Teachers .

The fourth one is (4) Enough Time and Conditions for their Further Study and the fifth one as (5) Enough Time for Relax .

Let's discuss about the fourth one first .

(4) Enough Time and Conditions for their Further Study

As everybody sees, teachers should not stop their study concerning the subjects they are teaching and also about Education. They should have always up to date knowledge with these matters so that they are not giving knowledge or teaching their pupils the knowledge that comes not from a stagnant pool, but knowledge that comes from a ever-flowing river or waterfalls. During these days, we can call the time as knowledge age or wisdom age, as all different kinds of knowledge are developed or burst out very quickly. Different experts from different corners of the world has done different experiments and different researches and all new findings come into the bank of knowledge very quickly. That is why, we teachers need to be life-long learners so that we can give our students the most modernized knowledge concerning the subject matter they are teaching .

Another flowing knowledge is concerned with Education. What is going on over the world concerning Education. What other people from other corners of the world are working, experimenting and searching for new ways of thinking and new ways of teaching and learning to our young ones. Even the following pillars are changing from day to day according to the needs of people and time and conditions. Up till now these pillars are : ..

- (i) To Learn to Know
- (ii) To Learn to Do
- (iii) To Learn to Learn
- (iv) To Learn to Think
- (v) To Learn to Create
- (vi) To Learn to Live together peacefully .

These can grow on and on in numbers according to the demands that come from the world, the people and their surroundings .

Even today, we need to learn how to attain the sustainable developmental goals which are in need for the whole world. We teachers should know these and how we need to prepare ourselves and our societies how to attain such sus-



tainable developmental goals .

The author has recently gave a talk on what are these and how we teachers should prepare ourselves so that we can meet and overcome and attain all these concerning from our Education field. The first talk was in the Education Talk, which is one of the occasions of the Silver Jubilee of the Sagaing University of Education this year. The 2nd Talk was in the Education Talk to the students and teachers of the University of the Development of National Races in Ywarthitkyee, Sagaing. Both talks were held in June, 2017 and the author has talked about what are these 17 SDGs and how we teachers need to prepare ourselves what and how we are going to teach our students for attaining these 17 SDG s.

All such kinds of knowledge together with what we are going to prepare ourselves to meet the ends when the time comes to do so .

Not only with such continuous learning, but also with new ways and means to teach our students, the knowledge of new findings from the up to date researches on Education, what is really happening all around us in the field of Education should be learnt and known not only by teachers, but also by all persons in responsibility and authority in Education .

And what more is whether the teachers and these persons have the time and conditions and facilities to learn all these updated knowledge .

Usually and naturally, all teachers are quite absorbed in their own world of teaching, they have no time and chance to study all these. Let's think of a usual working day for a teacher. The Teacher gets up early in the morning, quickly prepare to go to school after having breakfast, so that he or she can take an extra

teaching before the school starts. Then the teacher is usually absorbed in the the whole day school hours from 9 o'clock in the morning till about 3:30 pm. in the evening when the school is over. He or she is busy all day teaching, taking care of the students' attendance and their all round welfare, making lists and collecting and preparing data of different factors concerning the school, doing corrections to the pupils' homework and classwork, writing daily diaries, wrining plan and preparations for the coming lessons and so on .

After school, we need to take another extra teaching hours for the sake of our pupils. Only about late in the evening he or she has to go home. But, after doing housework or cooking or helping with the family members for awhile, some has to take care in the night study of their pupils again .

So, where is the time for such kinds of teachers to study up to date knowledge concerning with their subject matters or concerning with Education in the modern time ?

And how about the facilities to reach these knowledge, such as Internet Access, modern books with modern knowledge in the school library, extra money enough to buy these up to date books and so on ?

All these are essential to reach these up to date knowledge so that a teacher will be well-equipped with all these modern up to date knowledge .

We really need all these to attain (4) Time and Conditions for their Further Study. If not, how and when our persons in Authority fulfill these needs .

And let's think about the fifth one as (5) Enough Time for Relax .

"All work and no play make Jack a dull boy" is the very very old saying in

Education .

The author believes that teachers need enough time and conditions to relax every day for awhile. As we have mentioned above when is the time for teachers to relax? Where are the conditions for them to relax ?

As teachers have to struggle a lot everyday to meet the ends for his or her own family, they really do not have enough time for their own to relax. And if we say about the conditions for relax, the author thinks it will be more difficult to get such a fair condition for them. Have they enough money to spend extra for their hobbies and interests? Have they decent place for teachers for their relaxation ?

And some teachers absorbed themselves easily in drinking alcohol just for relaxation. It is really a non-decent and lack of moral dignity for teachers to do such things .

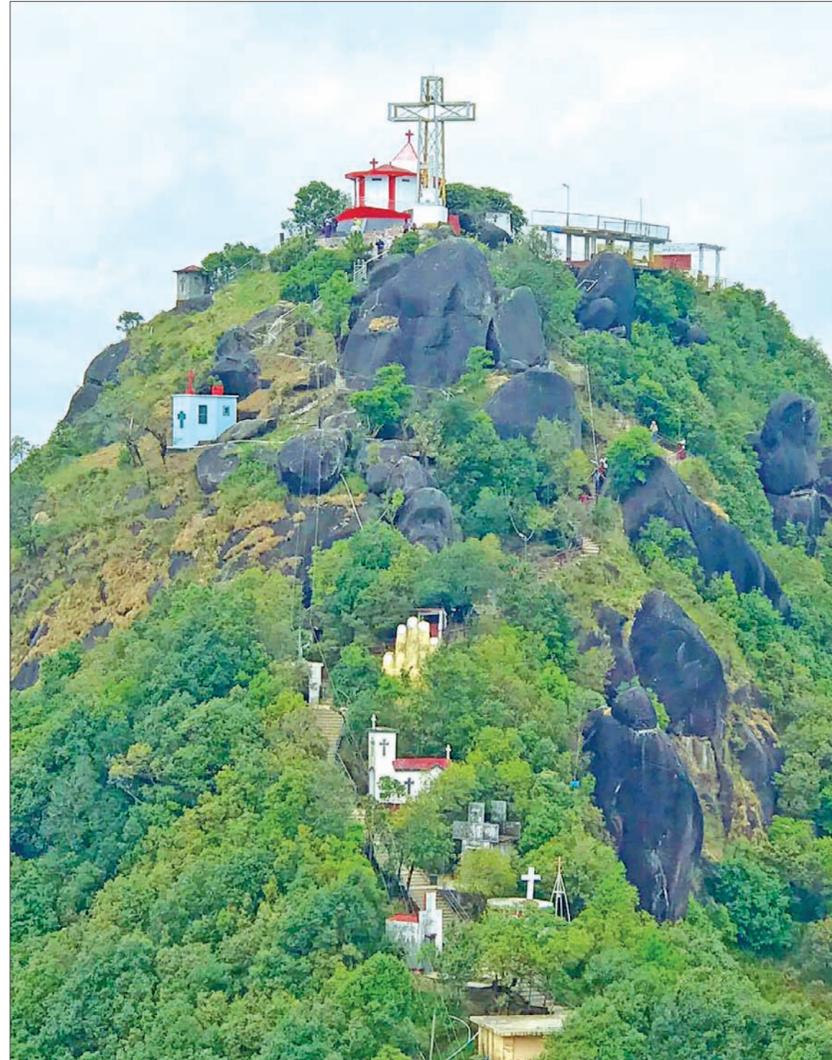
So we have enough space for doing health exercises and sports in every school? Have every village, people to go on in good terms with the teachers? Have all village heads or head masters who take care of the general welfare of teachers in their village schools and so on .

If all these can be fulfilled not only by the Ministry of Education, but also from every village in our country, we can have teachers with Good Mental Health, after relaxing happily enough for their day-ends, then only they can come up to the schools the next morning, active and eager to start another day for their students only with good mental health .

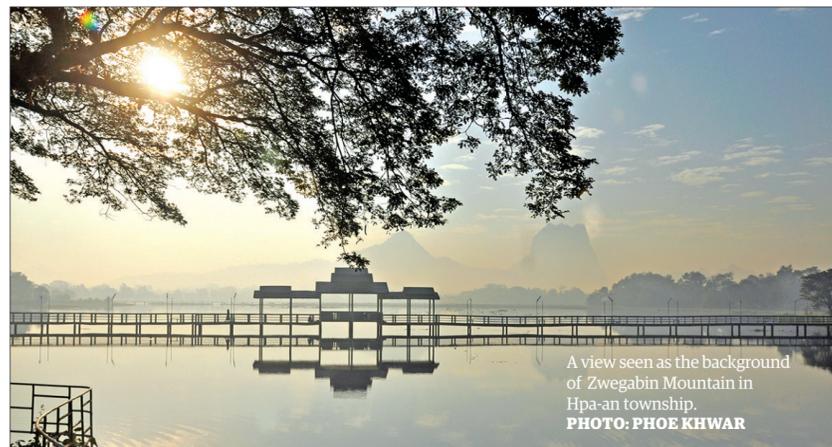
(to be continued)

Dr. Nu Nu Win, Retired Professor and Head of Department, Department of Educational Psychology, SUOE.

Development of public-oriented tourism industry in Thandaunggyi Region



Nawbubaw Mountain for Prayers.



A view seen as the background of Zwegabin Mountain in Hpa-an township.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

By Tun Tun Htwe [Hpa-an] & Min Thu

WITH the abundance of geographically attractive landscapes—the Four Famous and Great Rivers, mountain ranges surrounding in four directions, natural forests, rivers, creeks and water falls, coral reefs of the archipelago existing in the southern and south-west of the nation, mangroves and myriad of naturally beautiful locations, influx of globe-trotters are increasing more and more, thus tourism industry of the country is remarkably developing.

Kayin State

Plentiful are tourist attractions in Kayin State, and so it is more and more attracting visitors from home and abroad, year by year. In 2016, it managed to invite over 159000 tourists and more than 574000 local visitors. According to the office of deputy director [Hpa-an Branch] the hotel and tourism department, there were 187664 tourists and 505268 local travellers up to September, 2017.

Hpa-an Township

Only in Hpa-an and Myawady townships in Kayin State, tourists were granted to travel under restriction. Every visitor from home and abroad is free to travel to the accessible places such as Bayint Nyi cave, Kawt Gone cave, Yathay Pyan cave, Phar Kat Linno cave, Kyauk Kalat, Chitthumyaing garden, Zwegabin, Lonpani, Ing-yin Tahtaung, Cable Car Riding, Taung Wine taung, Phar Pu taung, Kawkathaung cave, Lon Nya Yay-pyar Ai, Saddan Cave and Kyon Htaw waterfall.

Greatly attracted by natural resources in Kayin State, arrivals of visitors are increasing day by day under the Yangon-Hpa-an one-day trip program and the long vacation trip program, according to the hotel and tourism department. Now, it has been learnt that Kayin State Government and Hotel and Tourism Department are negotiating arrangements for tourists to freely travel in other tourism-restricted areas with Hpa-an and

Myawady excluded.

Thandaunggyi Township

Thandaunggyi township situated at 4050 ft above the sea-level in the northern part of Kayin State is geographically surrounded by mountain ranges and natural landscape of beauty. Because of its annual rainfall amounting to more than 200 inches and all-year-long cool weather like famous Pyin Oo Lwin Resort Station in Myanmar, Thandaunggyi became an exciting location for the tourism attraction.

Town of Thandaunggyi

Thandaunggyi in fact became a summer vacation resort camp early than Pyin Oo Lwin, it was learnt. After the end of 2nd Anglo-Burma War, the British colonialists occupied Lower Myanmar and the middle part of the country, having arranged to open the summer vacation camp and summer residential office in Thandaunggyi, after finding the all-year-long awas opened for the resort camp for the injured soldiers in battles. Only in later years when nearly the whole country was occupied, the resort camp was moved to Pyin Oo Lwin, the then Maymyo.

Yet, after gaining Independence the country was void of tranquility due to the civil war. There then inaccessibility to get there pushed Thandaunggyi to become a ghost-town-like location for people apart from local dwellers in the rural region.

Nawbubaw Mountain for Prayers

Being followers of Christianity, most of the local people residing in the region built prayer halls at the holy summits of the mountain, naming it “Nawbubaw mountain for prayers,” starting from 1995. From then on, arrivals of visitors, especially Christians resumed in the region.

Visit Myanmar Year

When 1996 was designated as Visit Myanmar Year, Thandaunggyi region was included in the list of designated travel place, thus attracting people to recognize it as a resort camp. Thenceforth the region became crowded with



Photo: Thura (Toungoo)

visitors and prayers from near and far. The numbers of visitors increased from several hundred in 1996 up to several thousand in 2012.

Public-oriented tourism industry

Due to the progress in political and peace process in 2012, Thandaunggyi region in Kayin State was chosen as the tourism industry and simultaneously public-oriented tourism industry commenced to be implemented in December 2014.

Though situated in northern part of the Kayin State, it touches with borders of Kayah State, Bago Region, Nay Pyi Taw Council and Mandalay Region, being 250 miles far away from Mandalay Region, 200 miles from Yangon and 100 miles from Loikaw, Kayah State.

Situated it is only 28 miles far from north-east of Toungoo in Bago Region, and Toungoo-Thandaung Road has zigzag bends. But, upward road and downward road had been separately built and tarmacked. In the whole country such a kind of road separately built into upward and downward roads are only two; one is in Maymyo and another in Thandaung.

Consequence of Peace

As a result of the emergence of peace in the region, tourism

industry has developed in the region of Thandaunggyi, and thus arrivals of tourists from home and abroad are increasing day by day. Now they have had an access to visit many places such as tea-leave plantations, coffee-plantation, cardamom plantation and various kinds of crops plantations of thousands of acres owned by the Tatmadaw in Thandaunggyi region, ancient edifices in the colonial era, natural hot spring and water-falls, remarkable Nawbubaw Mountain for Prayers and New Year Mountain, traditions and cultures of local populace from nearby villages, depending upon the permission of the regional government and authorities concerned.

It is learnt that Mountain for Prayer and New Year Mountain are crowded with local and foreign visitors more than ever on 13th April annually when ceremony for giving praise to the Lord is held and on 1st Waxing of Pyatho on which Kayin New Year Day is held.

Places to lodge

The Union Government had already granted to open seven lodging houses with more than 40 rooms each for visitors from home and abroad to lodge, in the experimental period. At one time, over 70 tourists can stay there, it was learnt. Moreover,

Church Union and religious organizations were said to have arranged to accommodate several hundred of visitors to lodge by opening 4 rest-houses. Now that 9 neat and tidy restaurants run by the locals are providing delicious foods to the customers with excellent catering services, consumers can enjoy tastes of traditional foods.

Working Group and committees

Under the leadership of Thandaunggyi Tourism Development Working Group, the development of public-oriented tourism industry in Thandaunggyi is under implementation. Executive committee comprised of local stakeholders and advisory committee comprised of authorities concerned, responsible organizations partner associations were also formed.

The Working Group and the two committees formed have arranged the local people to have an access to take part in tourism industry in every sector. As a result, the local populace can give accommodation services, run business on restaurants and to open souvenir shops and regional product selling depots, thus achieving developments in social and economic sectors.

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo

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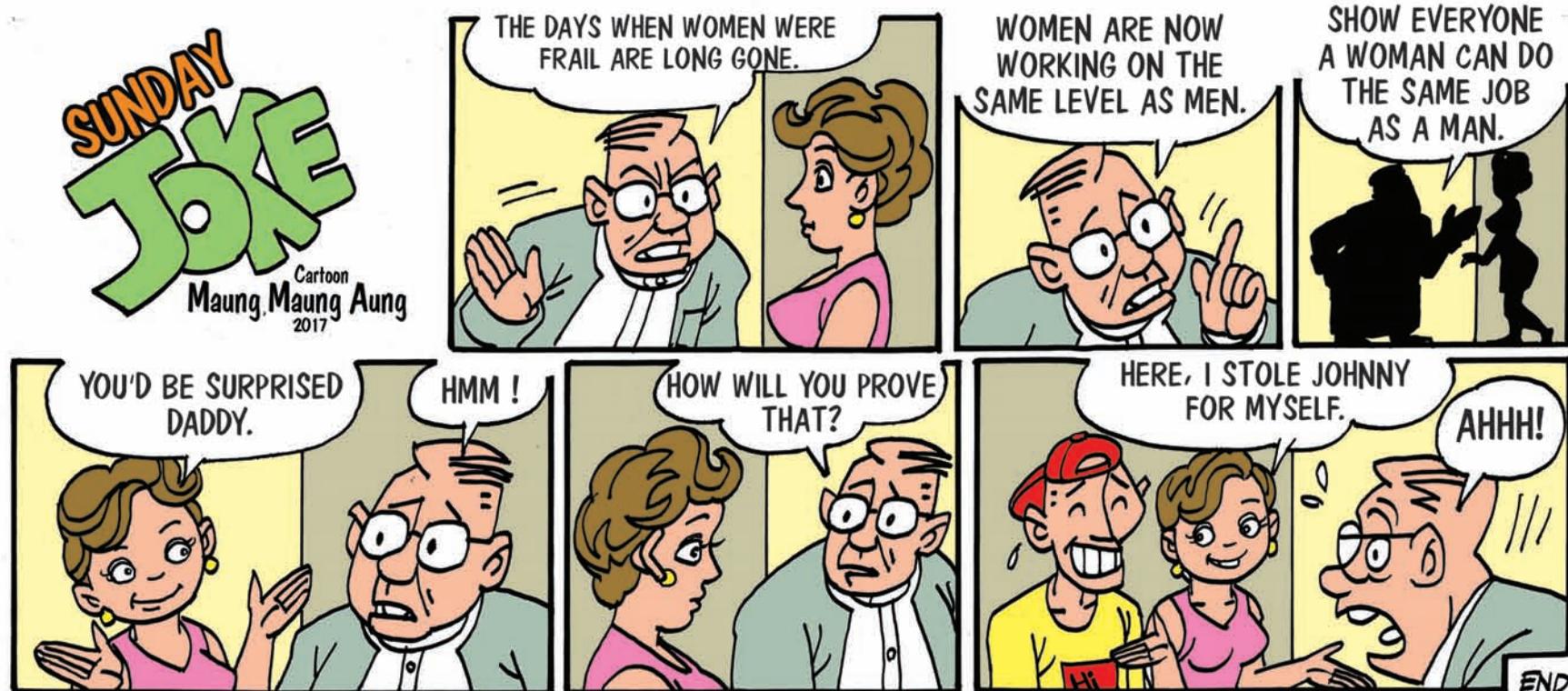


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SUNDAY COMICS



History, Language, Literature and Religion of Lisu Nationals

By Yoe Yar [Ma Ka Na]

LISU nationals belong to Kachin national ethnic group, one of over one hundred national ethnic races. Mostly, they live in Kachin and Shan States whereas some are spreading into Mandalay and Sagaing Regions as well. Their original location was the high land called “Mu Ku Di,” in Mongolia since time immemorial, it was learnt. Due to the increasing amount of dwellers in the region, they moved toward different places. From Mu Ku Di they went to greener pastures—Shiparr, Lachaw, Larkyi region [now Lanchaung in China], and thence Kyidu, Koedu and Likyan regions. From there, they moved to upper part of Mekong Basin and Naw Mi in the upper part of Than Lwin River. According to the saying, “Lisu originates in Lanchaung,” they were not named Lisu yet while living in Mu Ku Di. On arrival at Lanchaung, they started to be called “Lisu.”

Lisu language

Since prior to the invention of Lisu writing, they had spoken language. Depending upon their location, spoken languages are different slightly but they know to each other.

Out of the three main speak-



Lisu women gather as they participate in the ceremony to mark jubilee of Lisu literature in Myitkyina. PHOTO: MIN MIN OO

ing languages—Original Lisu Spoken Language, Lisu Naw spoken language and Silulaymei spoken language, Original Lisu spoken language is mostly used.

Lisu literature

Before the emergence of

Lisu language writing Lisu nationals used to eke out their living at farming and making art crafts. So, they used to mark what they wanted to write with signs and symbols. Starting from 1906, English missionary Father JO Freiser and Kayin

national Sayargyi U Ba Thaw invented Lisu language based on Roman Characters. It has 40 alphabets in all. Lisu language is being used by Lisu nationals as the Christian religious literature. And, it is used in educational and social spheres as well.

Religious Belief of Lisu

It can be found in three categories namely, Deism, Christianity and Buddhism.

Deism

It was the earliest belief. Since their forefathers' time, they worship gods/deities. They believe that there are many kinds of deities, firmly regarding that deities can lift up people, bring about good luck to its believers and they have mighty powers. If something occurs to them, they pray for them, asking for helps. Once in the past when they excessively professed deism, they greatly relied upon those governing god spirits. Numbers of nats/gods they worship are numerous.

Christianity

Long long ago, they use to worship deities for generations. But, due to the arrivals of Christian missionaries they started to profess Christianity, becoming Christian believers. The first-ever Lisu nationals who converted into Christianity were U Ngwar Tar and Daw Gu Nar Du. Christianity gradually spread toward border areas in Myanmar where Lisu nationals lived, reaching Putao, Chiphwe, Sotlaw, Sumprabun, Tanai, Machanbaw and other regions. In this way, Lisu nationals converted into Christianity from Deism. But, in some places Deists and Buddhists can be found.

Buddhism

Some Lisu nationals profess Buddhism. Especially, these Buddhist Lisu can be seen in Mogok in Southern Shan State and in some areas in Kachin State. Some Lisu nationals entered the Buddhist Order, the monkhood. These Buddhist Lisu nationals deeply believe in Buddha's Teachings.

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo



Leaders of Lisu ethnic people participate in the jubilee ceremony for Lisu literature. PHOTO: MIN MIN OO

I'm impatient, but must be patient



Nanda Mann Kyal
(Twinng)
B.A(English),PPTT certificate

As soon as I enter the room, the Grade-4 students stand up and start greeting.

"Good morning, teacher"

"Good morning, ok, sit down"

After greeting, I take an English book from one student to teach lessons. Although I prepare to teach lessons, some students are playing. Some are eating the snacks. Some are talking loudly to each other. So, I shout, "Don't speak in the class loudly."

But, they are still talking, eating and playing. They don't care my words. So, I am angry with them. At this time, I think again that I am a teacher. So, I am very patient. However, I shout again with a very loud voice.

"Be quiet in the class. I want to teach you English lessons well."

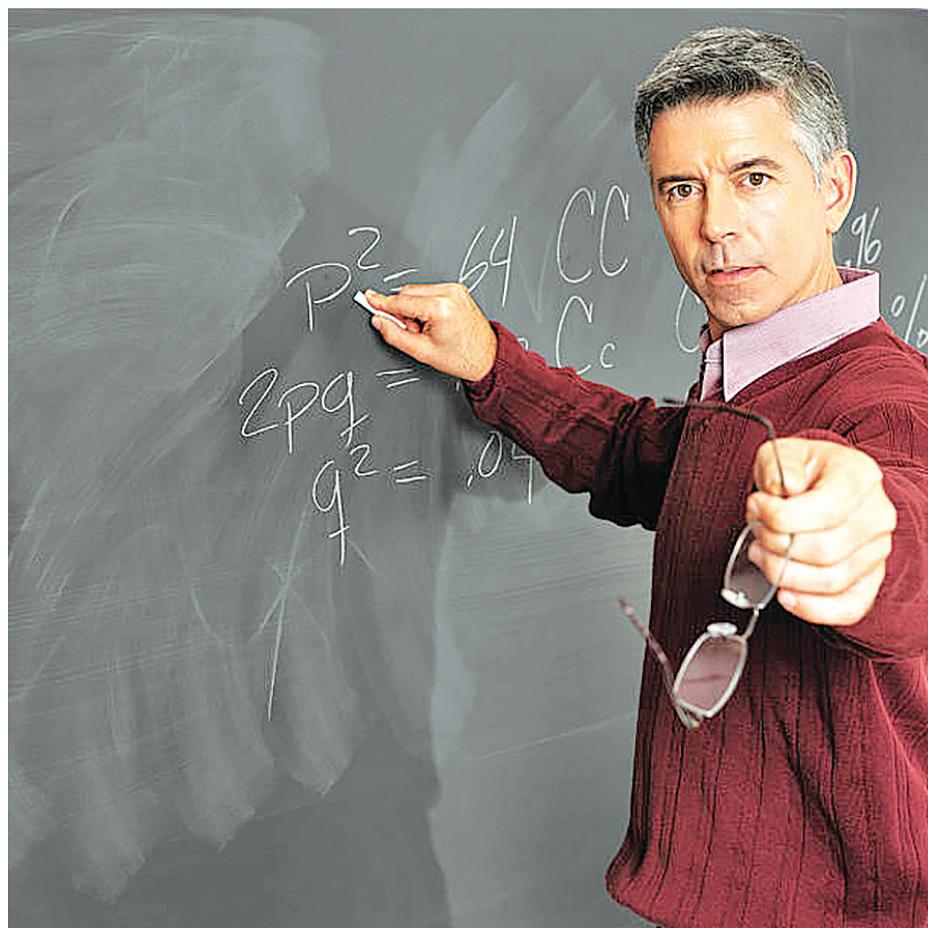
"Yes, teacher," the students reply in unison. I notice that they know that I'm very angry with them. So, the room is silent. Then, I write notes for "Negative Sentence" on the blackboard. But, I heard a cry in western part of the class. Someone makes a shout.

"Soe Aung hurts Lin Htet."

Yes, this is right. Lin Htet is crying. I have to say Lin Htet to satisfy.

"Don't cry, boy, I will punish Soe Aung."

When I say Lin Htet that I will punish, he stops crying. I make a pinch for



Soe Aung. Then, I start to teach again. But, Nga Pain reaches near me. He says, "Teacher, Kyauk Doe steals my pencil."

"An!" I exclaim. As soon as the first problem is solved, next problem starts. I will have to solve this. I have to call Kyauk Doe.

"Kyauk Doe, come here"

Kyauk Doe comes quickly to me.

"Show me pencil"
Kyauk Doe shows me. A red pencil. I take it and ask Kyauk Doe.

"Why do you take Nga Pain's pencil?"
"I don't take. I took it from my home."
Nga Pain says, "No, teacher, he steals my pencil."

Kyauk Doe says again quickly, "No, teacher, this is mine."

"An!"

I can't breathe a word as they argue with each other.

"No talking, I take it, you may go your place," I say. I can't also solve this problem as they argue that I own it and he owns it. So, I have to keep the red pencil.

"Huu," I wailed. I start to teach lessons again. Next problem appears. I have not taught them anything yet. Minn Khant says loudly,

"Teacher, Kyaw Gyi is teasing me."

"Hey, is it, Minn Khant? Come here."

Minn Khant and Kyaw Gyi come to me. I ask Kyaw Gyi first. "Why do you tease Minn Khant?"

"I don't tease Minn Khant," Kyaw Gyi replies quickly.

"Hey!"

"No, teacher, he teases me," Minn Khant says again. I look at Kyaw Gyi. Kyaw Gyi replies looking me, "No, teacher, I don't tease him. I say U Ba Aye in the lesson, The Football Match. His father's name is U Ba Aye. I don't mean his father."

According to Kyaw Gyi's word, Kyaw Gyi is also right. Both of them are right. So, I can't solve this problem too. I make them sit in their place again.

"Yes, you may go your place."

I can't solve all the problems in the class. In the whole day, I can't teach them much. Time is over solving the problems in the class. However, I am a teacher. I will have to experience more than 16,000 problems every day. I will solve these problems whenever we are at school. Although I'm impatient, I must be patient always.

Views of Migrants



Thit Thit Zaw
Grade-11 (I.S.M)

It is the wish of everyone to live a happy and free life in a country where they get equal opportunity and thus secure a better future for themselves and their families. There are not many nations that can guarantee such political and economical freedom. Many migrants would find immigrating to other countries that can draw solutions to their problems.

Although the migrant's travel to another place, the arrival of most immigrants is for personal reasons, it is no doubt also a benefit to the developments in many ways. However, there is much more complex definition of

migration. For migrants to interpret migration they must find the source or reason for migration. People move from one location to another because they consider the new location to be more favorable, in some respects than their old location. The common idea is that migrants migrate to be in a better situation in one form or another. In some extreme circumstances people may be forced to leave a country. When migrants have no alternative but to move out of the country.

War is a dominant factor for physical movement of people from one place to another. Throughout the existence of humanity, there have been many wars with many still continuing and showing no signs of slowing down. Moreover, migrants aren't only humans. Migration refers to the movement of people, animals or data

from one place to another. People and animals especially birds mostly move from one place to another in search of better conditions. The causes of human migration include political, social and economic factors.

In political and social migrations, and as we know in politics some countries especially the underdeveloped one there is some civil wars between the citizenship, this fact meant that there is no peace in that country and automatically we know that when there is no peace there is no normal life because when the war starts it damaged anything and everyone who is in front of it and because of all that some people choose to travel abroad and avoid any trouble caused by the war. In social ones the underdeveloped countries know and suffer at the economic level, it leads to the people to immigrate

abroad in order to gain money and find a work. Therefore they choose to travel abroad where the work is available and the cost of living isn't rising, and where they can improve on their social situations.

Economic migration is influenced by many different reasons. Migration flows from the less developed countries to the more developed countries. The most undeveloped countries suffer from the low salaries that the workers get, which push many of them to think of the immigrations. Also those countries don't afford for all the people enough jobs especially for the younger's that are considered as new comers to the job market when they discover that there isn't enough jobs for them and so that their decision will be surely to travel abroad or to immigrate definitively.