

NATIONAL

State Counsellor talks to honorary consuls over trade promotion

PAGE-3

**NATIONAL**

Agreement on projects of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund inked

PAGE-3

INTERVIEW

Interviews with student-delegates at the 8th Model ASEM

PAGE-7



THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 264, 5th Waning of Pyatho 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Saturday, 6 January 2018

Myanmar Youth Policy released

State Counsellor urges people to strive to maximise their abilities

MYANMAR's youth, which makes up more than a third of the country's population, will lead the way towards a better future, and an official policy promoting and nurturing youth will help, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said yesterday.

The State Counsellor attended a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to introduce the Myanmar Youths Policy, which was developed to improve and elevate the role of youths in all sectors of the country.

The youth policy draft formulated by youth representatives who were selected by regions and states was approved at the cabinet meeting of the Union Government on 11th November 2017. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Education and United Nations agencies also collaborated with youth representatives to develop the draft.

In her speech at the ceremony, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged all the people in the country to strive to boost their abilities.

The State Counsellor said she is optimistic that Myanmar's economy and education will improve. Young people will play a major role in the country's success because Myanmar's youth population makes up more than a third of the total population.

SEE PAGE-2



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets a youth in wheelchair who attended the ceremony to release the Myanmar Youth Policy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UEHRD talks with US, UN on Rakhine repatriation

The Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye held talks on the repatriation issue in Rakhine State separately with the US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel and Mr. Knut Ostby, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting with the US Ambassador focused on repatriation and resettlement of refugees, shutting down camps in the hills of Myaypon Township, reducing restrictions on the people living in IDP camps, measures related with issuing National Verification cards, US\$50 million in aid from the US for the internally displaced people returning from Thailand and measures taken for enacting a law on prevention of violence against women, works of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State and implementation of the agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh for repatriation and resettlement of refugees.

At the meeting with Mr. Knut Ostby, they sought ways for carrying out an assessment for cooperation between the UEHRD and UN, and a proposal for seeking help from UN for closing IDP camps.— Myanmar News Agency ■



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017



Pom Pom troupes rehearse for opening ceremony of the Children's Literature Festival at BEHS.No. 6, Botahtaung, in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Colourful booths to be exhibited at Children's Literature Festival in Yangon

THE Children's Literature Festival (Yangon) begins today at 9 am. The festival will include a display of the literature of Saya Gyi Min Thu Wun, memorial photographs, as well as many booths, including those displaying children's literature, a 3D showroom, a children's reading

room, introduction to technology, practical science, domestic work, education, floral and fancy, regional products, environmental conservation, water for electricity, physics, science labs and instruments. Also, there will be booths sponsored by private schools, as well as sanitary mo-

bile booths.

The entertainment programme will also include magic shows, puppet shows, a Myanmar orchestra show (Sai Wei) from BEHS No. (6), an elephant dance from Kyaukse and a music band from MRTV.—Myanmar News Agency ■



School children prepare for exhibiting their creation yesterday at the Children's Literature Festival which is opened today. **PHOTO: MNA**



Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Ambassador of Britain to Myanmar Mr. Andrew Patrick. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thura U Shwe Mann receives ambassadors to Myanmar

Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues Thura U Shwe Mann received Ambassador of Britain to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Andrew Patrick and Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar

H.E. Mr. Jong Ho Bom at the Hluttaw Building Halls (I-1) and (I-11) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed matters relating to legal affairs and boosting bilateral relations at the meetings.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Youth Policy released

FROM PAGE-1

According to the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, youths (ages 15-35 years) make up 35.58 per cent of the country's total population.

The State Counsellor also stressed the importance of narrowing the gap between the old and new generation by sharing experiences, knowledge and passing down the good heritage from the old to the new generation. She also pledged to encourage the education, health and sports sectors of the country as part of the efforts for development of youths.

She also pointed out a weakness of Myanmar society in teamwork due to a lack of activities requiring teamwork in the country's education system.

"But the spirit of 'Blood is thicker than water' of our country's people is still flourishing, and that will help us overcome the challenges of the education system, and the future of our youths also has a promising future," she said.

She also urged parents and

teachers to help the school children so that they can participate in teamwork with their friends.

"We want to encourage sports because we want to encourage team spirit that they can gain through the sports principles", said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

She also urged the country's youths, who are defined as Myanmar citizens between the ages of 15 and 35 years, not to consider a vocational education as superior to a university degree.

"To change our mindset, to get the right career, youths are obliged to try by themselves and to cultivate the right mindset," she added.

She also urged the youths to stay away from drugs and to protect the communities from the dangers of drugs.

The youth policy includes the advice of youths in fleshing out strategies and programmes at state and regional level discussions.

The new youth policy also focuses on issues related to education, health, drug hazards,

job opportunities, economics, political research, literature, arts and culture. It also promotes youth centres and free youth associations that will help the youths through development programmes.

The youth committee is tasked to review and amend the policy every year.

The policy also prioritizes programmes for disabled youth, orphans, young migrant workers, youths who are victims of war or natural disasters, transgender youths, young ethnic people, child soldiers, victims of human trafficking, drug addicts, victims of AIDS, sex workers and victims of child sex abuse.

According to the 2014 population census, Myanmar has a total population of about 51.4 million.

Youths between 15 and 19 makes up 9.20 per cent of the country's population, youths between 20 and 24 makes up 8.61 per cent, youths between 25 and 29 makes up 8.25 per cent and youths between 30 and 34 make up 7.7 per cent.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor discusses honorary consuls over trade promotion

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Mr. Won Bae Dahn, Honorary Consul-General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Busan, the Republic of Korea, Mr. Bryon Wilfert, Honorary Consul-General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Toronto, Canada, Mr. Ercan Aygun, Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Ankara, the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Ricardo Cateb Cury, Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Sao Paulo, the Federative Republic of Brazil, Mr. Filippo Bertani, Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Florence, the Italian Republic and Mr. Toshio Nishimura, Honorary Consul



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the meeting with honorary consuls in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Nagoya, Japan, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, at (1100) hrs today.

During the meeting, they discussed the promotion of trade, investment and cultural cooperation between the Repub-

lic of the Union of Myanmar and respective countries.

Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minis-

ter for International Cooperation and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Agreement on Cooperation on Projects of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund inked

THE Signing ceremony of the Agreement on the Cooperation on Projects of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund for Myanmar was held on Friday, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

The agreement was signed by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Ministries that proposed the projects and H.E. Mr. Hong Liang, Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Myanmar. The ceremony was attended by representatives from respective Ministries and officials.

Mekong-Lancang Special

fund of 300 million US dollar was established by China during the Second Mekong-Lancang Foreign Ministers Meeting held in 2016 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. 132 projects were selected for implementation under the Mekong-Lancang Special Fund, of which, 10 projects from Myanmar, 83 from China, 16 from Cambodia, 13 from Laos, 5 from Thailand, and 5 from Viet Nam were selected. The total amount of 2.4 Million US Dollars will be received for 10 selected projects, of which, 1 project is from Ministry of Home Affairs, 1 from Ministry of Transport and Communications, 5 from Minis-

try of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, 1 from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and 1 from Ministry of Education.

The Mekong-Lancang Cooperation was established following the initiative put forward by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the 17th ASEAN-China Summit held in Myanmar in 2014 to establish a new type of cooperation mechanism among six Mekong-Lancang countries comprised of Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam with an aim of promoting cooperation in the areas of political and socioeconomic development.—GNLM ■



Mr. Hong Liang (Left) and U Myint Thu (Right) sign Agreement on the Cooperation on Projects of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund for Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo receives Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw

CHIEF Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo received Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Ms. Vanessa Chan Yuen Ying at the office of Chief Justice of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In the meeting, they exchanged views and cordially discussed matters relating to cooperation after the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between My-

anmar and Singapore, cooperation for the Rule of Law and Judicial Education and Training Programmes.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Chief of Mission & Counsellor Mr. Koh Chee Chian; judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Thar Htay, U Aung Zaw Thein, U Mya Han and U Myo Tint, Director-General U Ko Ko Naing and other officials. — Myanmar News Agency

11 million stimulant tablets seized in Maungtaw in 2017

DURING 2017, over 11.1 million stimulant tablets were seized in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, according to an anti-narcotics squad official.

"In Maungtaw Township, a total of 27 cases, including 25 stimulant tablets cases and two marijuana cases, were found during 2017", said Police Major Zaw Win.

"The drug seizures were

made in Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships. We are adopting a drug-combating policy to be carried out across the country", he added.

As Buthidaung and Maungtaw are border towns, anti-narcotics squads are making concerted efforts to conduct preventive measures in the region, officials said.—Myint Maung/Zaya

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSKhin Maung Oo,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTERS**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/
globalnewlightofmyanmar**Write for us**We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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

Tourists visit Myanmar via Tachilek border gate

TOURISTS have been travelling in and out of Myanmar through international gateways and cross-border gateways, to enjoy its natural landscapes, tourist attractions and witness its many traditions, customs and social lifestyles.

In fact, a culture-based tourism package has been developed, where tourists can observe the traditions and culture of the nation's many ethnic people.

Some 159 visitors entered the country via the Tachileik border gate on a one-day return trip from December 29, 2017, to January 4, 2018. Some 275 tourists, including Thais and third country visitors, visited Maing Phat and Kyaing Tong; and 177 tourists, including Thais and third country visitors, travelled with a visa from December 29, 2017, to January 4, 2018.

Tourists enter Myanmar via Tachileik border gate. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Tourists who were on a one-day return trip visited the Tarlot market, Bayintnaung Statue, Maha Myatmuni Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda, national landmark garden, the Arrkhar market, and the Chinese monastery, which are famous sites in Tachileik.

Tourists who stayed overnight visited the Buddha Footprint Pagoda, Maha Myatmuni Pagoda in Kyaing Tong, Soon Taung Pagoda, and other well-known pagodas and locations in Maing Phat. Of those tourists who entered via the Tachil-

ek border gate, some 730,756 were one-day return visitors, while 11,901 travelled further, to Maing Phat and Kyaing Tong, from April 1, 2017, to January 4, 2018. There were 5,714 tourists with visas, who travelled by air to Tachileik.—GNLM

Winter onion & potato plantation damaged by unexpected rain

SOME winter onion and potato plantations along the Yaw creek and Chaw creek in Pauk Township, Magwe region are damaged by unexpected rain from 31st December to 3rd January.

There are 235 villages in Pauk Township. Most of villagers are cultivating winter onion and potato in Yaw creek and Chaw creek. The local farmers start to grow winter onion

and potato in December. At the same time the creek water destroyed the onion plantation.

The local farmers said unseasonal rains experienced in the township had resulted in total damage of onion and potato to crop. The price of onion and potato also depends heavily on the effects of the rain.

According to Township Agricultural Land Management and Statistics Department,

there is a total of 1,790 acre of onion and potato plantation in Pauk Township this year. An acre of winter onion & potato plantation cost over Ks 2 million, according to the local farmers.

Currently, the staff from the concerned department are collected the name list of the local farmers and acre of onion and potato plantations.—Nyein Toe (Pauk)

Two people on motorcycle killed in collision with Trailer in Bago

TWO people were killed in a horrifying crash between a trailer car and motorcycle on Yangon-Mandalay highway old road near HteinTabin village, Nyaunggaybin Township, Bago Region on 4 January.

The victims appear to have

been on a motorcycle that collided with a trailer after 1:30 pm. They were pronounced dead at the scene.

According to the investigation, a motorbike driven by Ko Htay Naing, 47, with Ma Than Than Aye, 43, on board was in

collision with trailer car driven by Jyaw Min Sein, 37, at the milepost 104/4 on Yangon-Mandalay road. The traffic police opened a case and took action against the reckless drivers under section 304 of the Penal Code.—Nay Lin (Nyaunggaybin)

Six dies, one injured in landslide in Myanmar's northern state

YANGON—Six people were killed and another one was injured in landslide near a jade mine in Myanmar's Kachin state on Thursday evening, the Information Ministry said on Friday.

The landslide occurred due to the collapse of a 45.7-meter-high, 60.9 meter-long spoil tip which was formed by waste dug out by Nine Dragons (Mine Ayeyar) mining company at 3:30 p.m. local time.

The injured has been under treatment in Hpakant hospital.

Mining accidents were common in Hpakant mining region and most of the fatalities were caused by landslides.—Xinhua

Yaba, Ice worth over Ks600 million seized

ACTING on a tip, a woman alleged to having a contract with drug dealers was apprehended while traveling on the Hpa-An-Thaton Road on Wednesday.

According to the investigation, a combined team, including officers and other staff, stopped a vehicle driven by Nan Bai Kham, 53, from Lashio, Shan State, and searched her car. They found 161,000 Yaba tablets, which weighed 16.1 kilograms and worth Ks 48.3 million, a mobile phone and Ks300,000 in her vehicle.

Additionally, a team searched her rented house on Nay Aung road, ward 29, Thuwanna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon, and found 25,100 Yaba tablets, weighing 2,510 grams and valued at Ks87.85 million, along with ICE, weighing 860 grams and worth Ks68.8 million, on January 5.

The police have filed charges against Nan Bai Kham under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—Min Thu/ Tun Tun Htway (Hpa-an)



Two female officials inspect food at a super market in Yangon on 5th January 2018. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAIR

FDA conducts surprise check at Theingyi Market, Yuzana Plaza

May Thet Hnin

A team, led by the Yangon Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA), conducted a surprise visit to check products in food and cosmetic stores at Theingyi Market and Yuzana Plaza yesterday.

This team included officials from the FDA, the respective township Administrative Department, doctors in-charge of the departments, members of the Yangon City Development Committee and the DOCA.

This action was taken to make the public aware and ensure that no prohibited cosmetic items or food products were being sold in the market.

In addition to this, officials inspected the list of the FDA's unmodified products, and bought suspicious cosmetics and food products to conduct

further examinations.

The FDA will take action under the existing law against store owners or vendors found to be selling prohibited or restricted items for the second time, said Dr Min Wun, head of Yangon Region FDA.

"Prohibited chemicals are being excessively used in food products. Therefore, we are carrying out awareness campaigns for the public and local manufacturers. We cannot take prompt action against the sale of products that are not brought to the attention of the FDA. We will seize those products and publicly call for caution if they are harmful to the public's health. The FDA will only monitor those products if they are still in a safe condition, said Dr Min Wun.

During the inspection, a few cosmetic and imported food

products were found to contain a suspicious chemical dye.

"Currently, a labelling law is being developed. Products should be labelled in English and include the manufacturing date, expiry date, address of the manufacturer and the FDA certificate. After this law is instituted, action will be taken against those sellers, producers and importers marketing and selling the products without the FDA's approval," said Dr Min Wun.

The Department of Food and Drug Administration Myanmar is examining the products at laboratories located in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. "In order to set up laboratories at border gates to inspect food and cosmetic products, we have requested the government to provide land and buildings," he added. ■

Exports via Myeik border gate surpass imports

EXPORTS through the Myeik Checkpoint, one of the seven Thai-Myanmar border gates, outperformed imports through the same route, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

As of December 22 this fiscal year (FY), the exports crossing through Myeik were valued at US\$133 million, while imports reached \$50 million, totalling \$183 million. This figure has increased by \$39 million, as against the same period last

FY.

Thai-Myanmar border trade amounted to over \$1 billion, including \$293 million in exports and \$737 million in imports. The border trade is carried out at the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese checkpoints.

Of these seven gates, Myawady gate is the main point for Thai-Myanmar trade, but the value of trade conducted via this gate dropped by \$7 million,

compared with last FY. Tachilek and Hteekhee also showed a slight decline in trade.

Thailand exports cosmetics, machinery, food products, agricultural equipment and trucks into Myanmar, while marine products (fish, crabs) and agro products (onions, sesame seeds, turmeric, corn) were exported to Thailand.

Also, the depreciation of the Kyat against the Thai baht has hurt the value of border trade. - Htet Myat ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈)
မျက်နှာပေါင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

Three dead, one hurt in IED explosion in Maungdaw Tsp

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ ပေါင်သည့်

နေပြည်တော်
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊
စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)
ဇယားလမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ နေပြည်တော်၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇ ၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of
Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊
ဦးထင်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀ ၂၁၁၆၄၂၊ ၀၉၅၂၄၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၁ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ မုလ်ခွေ
ရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၄၄၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ဇေးအနီး၊
မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂

ကချင်ပြည်
မြို့နယ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့နယ်လမ်း၊
ကချင်ပြည်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၇၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်းခြံ
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေခဲရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊
မြင်းခြံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရမ္မာဝတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊
မိမိကပ်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊
(၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊
လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ခြောက်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊
ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၈၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၇၂၇၂၆

ပုဏ္ဏား
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတံတိုင်းအနီး၊
ပုဏ္ဏားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃

Hotline - 09974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Trade Mark Ads

Call
Thin Thin May,

09251022355,
09974424848

Children's Literature Festival in Botahtaung aims to instil love of reading, discourage internet games

A children's literature festival will be held from 6-8 January at No. 6 Botahtaung High School in Yangon. The following are interviews with students, teachers and parents who are participating or involving with the festival.

Daw Kyi Kyi Win, student's mother

I am the mother of Ma Khaing Zar Thwe, who is studying in the Kyaik Wing Disabled Young Children's School. I am very glad and proud to see my daughter who is participating to perform in the festivals. I think this festival is very beneficial to the children because it can broaden their outlooks and knowledge. Moreover, it can nurture their reading habits as well. This festival is a good opportunity for the disabled children to join in. For them, cooperation is needed among teachers, parents and children in order to stand on their own feet. I'd like to urge the authorities concerned to hold such this kind of festival next year again.



Daw Kyi Kyi Win



Daw Mi Mi Khaing



U Zoe Hmein Htan Arr



Ko Wai Yan Moe Myint



Maung Zaw Win Tun



Maung Kaung Sat Win

Daw Mi Mi Khaing, student's mother

My son is Maung Kaung Tun, who is studying in the Kyaik Wing Disabled Young Children's School. As far as I know, this kind of festival hadn't been celebrated before, and I am very glad to cooperate with them. Normally, children like reading cartoons and comics, and I think that it is very beneficial for them. I asked my son to entertain with dancing at the festival, and he readily agreed to it. That's why he has received a chance to show his talents. Although my son is a disabled child, I want him to be a

valuable person in our society. I'd like to invite all parents to bring their children to this festival.

U Zoe Hmein Htan Arr, an English teacher at Brown Academy

Being a teacher, I am very glad to see this kind of children's festival. As you know, children who live in the city are playing internet games all the time instead of reading and studying their lessons. As a result, their reading

habits are waning rapidly, and they tend to neglect their studies. When I was young, I used to read many useful periodicals such as the Shwe Thway, the Aurora and other illustrations for my side-reading. Nowadays, most of the children no longer read them. I want to encourage them to read more books in their free time. I am sure this festival can stimulate their reading habits so that they can create a reading environment on their

own. I believe it is effective and will be a good practical approach for them to do all-round developments. All in all, I recommend this festival and it is worth visiting this festival.

Ko Wai Yan Moe Myint, manager of Happy World Amusement Park

We put on a variety of games for the children and adults at the festival. On behalf of the Happy World Amusement Park, I

am very glad to organise the game-playing, which will include a small swimming pool for the young children. I'd like to invite all the children to study and play in this festival.

Maung Zaw Win Tun, a student at B.E.H.S (4) Pazon-taung

Currently, I read some books on natural disasters because I am a member of the Red Cross Society. When I first heard about this festival on the television, I was very anxious to go there. In my point of view, most of the school children are not interested in reading, but just a few of them prefer to read e-books. I hope that it can enhance their reading habits.

Maung Kaung Sat Win, a student at Sein Kant Kaw Pwing Private School

I felt thrilled when I visited Sayagyi Min Thu Won's showroom. At first, I didn't intend to come here. Whatever it is, I will be very happy to visit this festival for the first time in my life. In addition to reading, I spend most of my time listening to the music, doing exercises and playing many kinds of games. Moreover I came to know more about Sayagyi Min Thu Won and his poems. I would like to invite all of you to join happily with us.—Aung Min Han

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman receives US Ambassador Scot Marciel

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi received H.E Mr. Scot Marciel, US Ambassador to Myanmar, yesterday morning at the Anti-Corruption Commission Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to cooperation works in ethic development and technology for anti-corruption and projects to be carried out in 2018.

Commission secretary U San Win and commission member Daw Myat Myat Soe also attended the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi holds talks with Mr. Scot Marciel, US Ambassador to Myanmar, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Winter onion, potato plantation damaged by unseasonal rains

A few winter onion and potato plantations along Yaw Creek and Chaw Creek in Pauk Township, Magwe region, were damaged by unseasonal rainfall between 31 December, 2017 and 3 January, 2018.

There are some 235 villages in Pauk Township, where most villagers cultivate winter onions and potatoes in Yaw Creek and Chaw Creek. Local farmers start growing winter onions and potatoes in December. At the same time, however, the creeks' water destroyed the onion crops.

Local farmers said that the unseasonal rainfall experienced

in the township had seriously damaged the onion and potato crops. The prices of onions and potatoes depends heavily on the effects of rain. According to the Township Agricultural Land Management and Statistics Department, a total of 1,790 acres are under onion and potato cultivation in Pauk Township this year. An acre of winter onion and potato plantation costs more than Ks2 million, according to local farmers. Currently, staff from the departments concerned have made a list of local farmers and those acres under onion and potato cultivation.—Nyein Toe (Pauk)

I had the opportunity to discover the various aspects of the world's political and economic situations: Ma Yae Taing Sein

Interview with Myanmar delegate students at the 8th Model ASEM

By Nandar Win &
Win Win Maw

The 8th Model ASEM was held in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw from November 15 to 21, bringing together some 150 young participants from 51 European countries. We interviewed Maung Phyo Thura Htay, final year student in Chemical Engineering from Yangon Technological University; Ma Yae Taing Sein, second year student in International Affairs from Yangon University; and Ma Byat Par Lain, second year student in History from Hakha College.

Q: Can you tell us about how you came to learn about the 8th Model ASEM?

Maung Phyo Thura Htay: The ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) model is a great opportunity for young people to step into the shoes of their country's leader and discuss important issues. It is organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation, and Myanmar's Ministry of Education co-sponsored it. I applied for the programme online. They asked questions about our participation in extra-curricular activities and what we would ask the leaders of other countries. We filled out all the questions and submitted the form.

Ma Yae Taing Sein: I found out about the programme from my school and applied for it online.

Ma Byat Par Lain: I think they prioritised selecting students from ethnic groups for this programme. My school selected the students to participate in the programme, so I did not need to apply for it online.

Q: Did you have to make any preparations for the ASEM meeting?

Mg Phyo: The Asia-Europe Foundation conducted a four-week online course for the chosen participants. We had to write assignments on the status of a selected country's sectors, such as education, business and healthcare, as well as their foreign policy. I represented Austria, and I had to do research about the country from the internet.

Ma Yae: I had to represent Sweden, so I researched Sweden's foreign policies. I was assigned the theme 'Sustainable Development', so I had to conduct research on what Sweden was doing to abolish poverty.

Ma Byat Par Lain: I had to represent France, so I researched their social, business and education sectors, and their efforts to reduce poverty.

Q: Can you tell us a bit about your time at the programme.

Mg Phyo: I took the place of Austria's foreign affairs minister in the foreign ministers' meeting. I also took part in a workshop where we discussed how to develop IT communications between Asia and Europe.

Ma Yae: I spoke as Sweden's representative and made a three-point presentation on how to reduce poverty. The three points were equality and reduction of all types of poverty, policy coherence in all the related territories, and partnership between all the ASEM countries.

Ma Byat Par Lain: I spoke about unequal job opportunities and better healthcare in France.

Q: Were there any awards



Ma Yae Tain Sein was invited the Intervention speech reflecting voices of youths at 13th ASEM FM's meeting.



Myanmar delegate students at the 8th Model ASEM.

at the meeting, and what difficulties did you face?

Mg Phyo: I received the best delegate award from Asia. All the participating students voted to determine the recipients of the awards. There were two recipients from Asia, including me, and the other person was from Singapore. As I am an engineering student, I had difficulties gathering knowledge about the political and economic sectors.

Three weeks before the meeting, I received training from my teachers at the university and officials from the Foreign Ministry about the current situation in Myanmar, and on how to speak and behave with diplomats. I now have the opportunity to participate in the

next Model ASEM in Ireland.

Ma Yae: I was selected to be one of the four students to give an intervention speech at the 13th ASEM. My greatest challenge was trying to stay within the framework of the country I was representing.

Ma Byat Par Lain: I received the best delegation award for representing France. Although I researched about France, I still did not have sufficient knowledge about the country.

Q: Were you invited to the 9th Model ASEM?

Mg Phyo: The 9th Model ASEM will be held in Europe. I participated in these dialogues from a technological perspective, and discussed how it can help the socio-political sector

during the discussions. A lot of countries are also showing increased interest in Myanmar.

Ma Yae: My advice for the participants of the next Model ASEM in Spain is that this programme will open up many roads and opportunities for you. I had a chance to view my own country from the perspective of a developed country.

I also made a lot of international friends. This programme will be a huge help to your community and society. I had a lot of experiences meeting with foreign students and delegates.

Ma Byat Par Lain: I want to encourage Myanmar students to apply for the next meeting in Spain. You will receive a lot of experience, as well as knowledge about other countries.



Ma Byat Par Lain (center).

Vital investment for national development

MANY researchers accept that getting start-up capital for businesses and investment are of great importance for the economic development of a nation. Here, start-up capital means financing; however, other factors like buildings and infrastructure, and human capital are equally important. With a higher level of knowledge, intellect, skills, positive attitudes and innovative ideas of people living in the country, that country can become the one which possesses the advanced human resources. The national development of a country can be achieved by raising human resources to the highest level of caliber to exploit in the most effective way. Some countries with little natural resources did manage to become developed nations by developing human resources, as known by all.

With the geographical features and possession of natural resources of our country, scholars regard our country to be a God-Favoured Nation. In most decades during some 70 years after gaining Independence our country lagged far behind other countries in development because our country itself lived isolated

by not letting other countries bring technical knowhow and investment into the country and due to economic sanctions imposed by the United States. In the education sector, a kind of investment on the development of human resources, human resources development went down to a low level because of wrong policies and wrong education system, and insufficient budget in educational research.

In the peace talks with local youths in Kayah State, the State Counsellor said, “Once in the past, Myanmar’s education system stood first not only in the South East Asia but also in Asia. In later years it declined. That was attributed to introduction of a low quality education system, hence the need to amend it. But amendment of the education system cannot be made overnight.”

Now in our country, we are upgrading education systems in schools, universities and colleges. Simultaneously, efforts to make vocational education broader in scope are under way. As for those who cannot proceed to higher education level

they can get vocational education for their survival in the future. No matter what type of learning we get in schools, universities or vocational training schools, the most important thing is to get the actual knowledge about what we have learnt, so that we can adapt ourselves to the working environment when we enter the respective jobs.

In changing our education system and objectives, we can develop human resources by constantly assessing performances of our teaching staff, fulfilling necessities in teaching and learning, by reducing drop-out rates, and carrying out arrangements for students to have an easy access to vocational education. Thus we should all bear in mind that investing in human resources development is vital for national development. ■

Successful change from . . .

By Aye Maung Kyaw

THESE days, talks, workshops and debates concerning Myanmar’s changes were frequently found here and there. Debates are mostly found to have been concerned with the matters as to which achievements the government had had during the two-year-period when the incumbent government took the office, as to how much the government ministries implemented the national projects and concerning to which level the changes reached.

Some criticisms were made on facts and figures, with some made on hypothesis. Some people have been found to eagerly find fault with the performances of the respective ministries. Most were the success-orientated debates, that is, they would recognize the government’s performances as the successful ones provided that remarkable achievements could be made. Some debates were kinds of the Process-Orientated approach. Their idea is as follows: “Changes are moving in a process. They must start from the basic foundation. Though noticeable changes cannot be found yet they sure are destined to become a strengthened change.”

In fact, that is the concrete change. To start with the time when U Thein Sein Administration took office, remarkable changes were found at that time. For example, permits for importing motor vehicles, rice and cooking oil were granted to all. As a result, prices of cars and cooking oil plunged rapidly. But, if we traced to whom these permits were granted in the past and which concessions the then government had to give the above-said ultra-opportunists it can be easily seen that they had myriads of opportunities not less than the first ones. Now, we have to study whether there are still existing similar events.

Over one year ago, a paper of rendering titled “necessities

for a successful change” was contributed to the People’s Affairs Journal. The write wrote it based upon the interviews with Presidents and Prime Minister-Level Dignitaries from 12 countries. In brief, the paper included some 20 important points though it had broader opinions.

Some of them are as follows:

1. Opposition group is the one who gets People’s supports enough to challenge the government.
2. They must get rid of fear between the dictatorship groups.
3. The oppositionists should make efforts to become trustworthy negotiation partners for the governments desirous of outlet strategy.
4. Though only some parts were successful in some matters of importance, that is, though some of one’s supporters were reluctant to support, the opposition group is to prepare for negotiation.
5. Though the highest brave political demands may be attractive, they are not practically useful.
6. It will be the longest challenge for democracy activists to put security forces under the civilian administration.
7. There are not yet civilian organizations in the countries such as Egypt, Myanmar, Gambia, Thailand and some countries.
8. There may be challenges on Constitutions whereas Constitutions are usually renewed in most countries.
9. In drawing a Constitution it is necessary to represent the majority so that similar anxieties on the major parts can be reflected.
10. At the time when the democratic transition is being performed, sometimes there may be blames over democracy leaders from the people. And, there may be occasionally political and economic failure on the way to democracy.
11. Free judgment must ensure the accountability for admin-



Yangon City. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

In the whole country, Yangon city dwellers only are mostly suffering from the impact of high rises of commodities’ prices. Expenditure in Yangon may be double of the expenditure in local areas.

istration without hindering new occurrences. Likewise, media with freedom and accountability will ensure deep-rooted democratic system.

12. Had many parties been free from their personal interests and interests for cronies will they play important roles.

13. Changes are caused by political movements, but economic challenges will rise for the new government.

14. Prior to the decline of supports from the party’s strong supporters, incumbents are to reduce social difficulties being experienced by those from the lowest layer.

15. Nearly all of the leaders making changes usually exercise market-orientated large-scale monetary and financial policies, but they need to avoid the error of selling public interests to the ultra-opportunists, with great care.

In Myanmar, most of these points can be found happening.

even a seat in the parliaments. Nowadays, declarations of 20 parties and 24 parties were being made. As regards this, we should analyze them in consultation with the point no.12. Points 13, 14 and 15—the most essential part of the paper are of the greatest importance as the government is now facing.

Among these points, the only difference is that there is a civil war in Myanmar. The saying “larger the warring domain the narrower the democracy sphere” is now widely spoken out these days. So, the government is now prioritizing to bring about internal peace. Very recently, in the paper read by Sayargyi U Myint at UMFCCI, it was submitted to prioritize national economy likewise the national peace. This must also be considered.

Since after gaining the Independence, what all the governments must to carry out essentially are two things. One is the problem concerning Yangon and another is the affairs of farmers.

Yangon is the only place which reflects Myanmar’s politics and economy to the full. Farmers, 70 percent of the national populace belongs the very fundamental class in Myanmar. These days, farmers are earning excellent incomes. Apart from shortage of laborers in farming and climate changes, they can be said in favorable conditions. Had farmers

earned excellent incomes internal consumption rate will arise and money circulation in the nation will be better. What most of the critics are saying is based on Yangon.

In the whole country, Yangon city dwellers only are mostly suffering from the impact of high rises of commodities’ prices. Expenditure in Yangon may be double of the expenditure in local areas. Especially, stagnant commodities prices at the higher level may be attributed to higher transport charges and reliance upon mini-markets. In 2011, inflation rate was 11 percent, with that of the present year standing at 4 percent only, decreasing gradually. That was a reliable index to be referred, based on monthly collected data of over 200 items of commodities.

The question as to how many years we will wait for, in fact came from some critics. In actuality people are still ready and willing to actively cooperate with the government. People have been well convinced of the process rather than result. In other word, people had already known concerning the gradual change. We firmly believe that people will be encouraging the government struggling in the midst of restrictions on constitution, the internal peace and Maunglaw region issue. ■

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo

Scientists map quake-prone Asian region

By Michael Taylor

KUALA LUMPUR (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - An international team of scientists is set to begin a four-year project this month that will map, image and monitor an earthquake-prone area that encompasses some of the most remote and densely populated parts of Asia, including western Myanmar.

The US\$7 million project is partly led by Michael Steckler, a professor at Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. It will involve three teams planting sophisticated global positioning system stations, and more than 100 seismometers that detect tremors in Bangladesh and western Myanmar, along the so-called IndoBurma subduction zone.

A team in India will also begin work in the part of the zone that extends into the northeastern part of that country.

“This particular area has never been (mapped) before in anything close to this scale,” Steckler told the Thomson Reuters Foundation on Thursday. “We know so little about what the geometry of the fault is under there that it is very hard to make accurate assessments.”

More than 30 researchers from at least six countries will create a detailed image of the onshore subduction zone, which is also home to the world’s largest delta system. It spans an area of about 700 km (435 miles) and is an extension of the zone that caused the tsunami of 2004 in the Indian Ocean, which killed more than 200,000 people.

Any future earthquake in the research and surrounding areas could impact 140 million people - many of whom are among the world’s poorest - and cause the collapse of thousands badly maintained or constructed buildings, researchers said.

Steckler cited the Rana Plaza disaster in Bangladesh, which killed more than 1,100 factory workers in 2013, as an example of the potential risks that an earthquake would pose.

“A year and a half ago we published a paper saying that there was the potential for a large earthquake in this area,” he added.

Following preliminary work carried out late last year, Steckler and his team will move a shipment of more than 1 tonne of equipment and instruments to a base outside Bangladesh’s capital, Dhaka, later this month. Work will then be carried out in the northeast of Bangladesh. Teams in both India and Myanmar are due to begin work in March.

In addition to planting seismometers, researchers will conduct various studies, and collect and study rock samples across the three countries, with the aim of better understanding and minimizing the risks that any future mega-earthquake would have for the area.

It is also hoped that the studies will enable authorities to raise earthquake awareness and develop the most cost effective ways to keep buildings and communities safer, said Steckler.

Such initiatives are desperately needed in the region, which is one of the poorest and most densely populated in the world, according to Vineet Gahalaut, director of the National Centre for Seismology in New Delhi, who heads the Indian research team.

“Vulnerability is very high because the structures, conditions and preparations are poor, and awareness is less,” he said.

Reuters

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

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr. Moon Jae-in
President of the Republic of Korea
Excellency,

On the occasion of 70th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to Your Excellency and to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Over the years, our two countries have built close ties of friendship and cooperation in a wide range of areas. I sincerely hope that we can further strengthen the relations between our two countries in a mutually beneficial and future-oriented way, and in so doing, promote the well-being and happiness of our peoples and deepen our mutual understanding and friendship.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my best wishes for your good health and continued success in all your endeavors as well as for the everlasting prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From H.E Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen
Federation President of the Republic of the Austria
Excellency,

On the occasion of the celebration of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar I take great pleasure in conveying to you my warmest congratulations.

I seize this opportunity to extend my best wishes for a happy future of the people of Myanmar.

From Mr. Emmanuel Macron
President of the French Republic

Excellency, Mister President,

As the Republic of the Union of Myanmar celebrates the 70th anniversary of its independence, it is my pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to the Myanmar people and to you.

As you know, France resolutely supports the efforts of the Myanmar civilian government to promote peace and reconciliation, as well as the democratic transition of your country in a context which I know is difficult. Dramatic events have scarred the past year.

France is extremely concerned by the violence and forced displacement of the civilian populations of Rakhine State. Faced with this serious situation, France calls on the Myanmar security forces to put an end to violence and discrimination in Rakhine State, and to allow full, safe and unfettered humanitarian access to the civilian populations in need.

I hope that this new year will bring decisive progress towards peace reconciliation and development for your country, especially in areas where conflicts and violence persist. Your commitment to work towards the restoration of humanitarian access, reconstruction, reconciliation and the return of the rule of law, as part of the establishment of the advisory board on Rakhine in charge of monitoring the full implementation of the recommendations on Rakhine State made by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State chaired by Mr. Kofi Annan, should contribute to this task.

Please rest assured of the deep friendship of the French people for the people of Myanmar and the resolute support of France in the implementation of the democratic process. We stand alongside Myanmar to contribute concretely and actively to its development and openness to the world.

Please accept, Excellency, Mister President, the

assurances of my highest consideration.

From His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah
Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam
Your Excellency,

I am pleased to send my warmest congratulations to you and to the Government and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on your 70th Independence Day.

As we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I very much look forward to enhancing the valuable friendship and cooperation that we enjoy as close bilateral and regional partners, especially through our work in ASEAN.

From Mr. Sergio Mattarella
President of the Italian Republic
Your Excellency,

The celebrations of the National Day offer me the welcome opportunity to convey to You, on behalf of the Italian people and on my personal behalf, my wishes of prosperity and peace for Myanmar and all its inhabitants.

Nay Pyi Taw and Rome are bound by strong ties of friendship that foster the dialogue between our countries. In this framework, these relations can further develop both on bilateral and regional and multilateral level, also to the benefit of the achievement of the goals of economic progress and harmonious social coexistence that the Union of Myanmar has set.

I renew my best wishes of well-being for You and for the friend people of Myanmar.

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to State Counsellor

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam
Your Excellency,

I am happy to extend my warmest congratulations to you and to the Government and people of the Republic of The Union of Myanmar on the occasion of your country's 70th Independence Day.

As we mark the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of The Union of Myanmar, I am very pleased to note the close friendship enjoyed by our peoples as well as the growing cooperation between our two countries.

I also much appreciate your personal contributions in strengthening our bilateral and regional partnerships, especially with your visit to Brunei Darussalam last October, which I believe will further strengthen the long-standing and valuable ties between us.

From H.E Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
Excellency,

On behalf of the Royal Government and the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I have the great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency and the friendly people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, my heartfelt congratulations on the joyful occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Cambodia and Myanmar have enjoyed cordial relations of friendship and good cooperation bilaterally and under multilateral frameworks with a high sense of solidarity and mutual respect. I am confident that these excellent ties which so happily exist between our two countries will be further consolidated, and together we will be able to achieve greater happiness and prosperity not only for our two peoples and but also for the whole region and beyond.

In cordially commending your government for its success in maintaining a stable macro economy and high growth. May I convey through Your Excellency my best wishes for the wellbeing of the people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and my best wishes for your good health and success in all your endeavors.

From H.E. Park Sokhonn
Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia
Excellency,

I would like to convey to Your Excellency my warmest congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I note with satisfaction the increased cooperation between our two countries both bilaterally and multilaterally. Recalling my discussions with Your Excellency, I wish to reconfirm Cambodia's consistent desire to develop fruitful cooperation in a wide range of areas for the benefits of the peoples of our countries and in the interest of maintaining peace, stability in the region.

Let me avail of this opportunity to wish further success and good health to Your Excellency in discharging your highly responsible duties.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

SEE PAGE-11

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to State Counsellor

FROM PAGE-10

From Mr. Ivica Dacic
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia
Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I extend to you, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign affairs of the Republic of Serbia and on my own behalf, cordial congratulations and best wishes for the overall progress of your country and its people.

I am confident that the friendly relations between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will develop and be enhanced in the mutual interest and to the satisfaction of the both countries.

I am truly grateful for your country's principled position regarding preservation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Serbia.

I express my hope that conditions will be soon created for the situation in the Republic of the Union of

Myanmar to stabilize, and for it to develop unimpededly, to the benefit of your people.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia
Prime Minister of the People's Democratic
Republic of Algeria
Her Excellency Aung San Suu Kyi
State Counsellor of Republic of Union of
Myanmar,

It is with great pleasure that I share with you, on behalf of the government of Algeria, the joy of celebration of the National Day of your country, and I would like to extend to you my warmest congratulations and best wishes of good health and peace to your Excellency, as well as continuous progress and prosperity to the friendly people of Myanmar.

On this happy occasion, I would like to assure you of my commitment to work with you to strengthen the

links of friendship and cooperation that exist between Algeria and Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency the State Counsellor, the expression of my highest consideration.

From H.E Mr. Mevlut Cavusoglu
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic
of Turkey
Excellency,

I would like to congratulate Your Excellency on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am confident that friendly relations between Turkey and Myanmar will grow stronger through our joint efforts in the year ahead.

We remain committed to support Myanmar's efforts to build a peaceful, democratic and prosperous nation that benefits all its people.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Displaced persons provided with relief items in Kyaukme Township

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) were provided with relief items at a religious building in Kyaukme Township, Northern Shan State this morning.

The displaced persons in Mongngot Town left their homes due to escalating fighting between the Myanmar military and ethnic armed groups. The displaced persons were taking shelter at a monastery in Kyaukme; they have been furnished with humanitarian assistance such as stationery,

warm clothes, blankets and mosquito nets. The relief supplies were contributed by the UN, Myitta Foundation and Relief International, a Lashio-based organization.

The Shan State Hluttaw Representatives U Sai Tun Win and U Sai Tun Nyan, Relief and Resettlement Department officials and other relevant officials attended the ceremony, according to a source from the Information and Public Relations Department.—MDN ■



Displaced persons were provided with relief items. PHOTO: MDN

Mandalay District sees unbalanced police-to-public ratio

ONE police officer has to deal with 1,358 people in Mandalay District, according to a source from the office of district police force.

Myanmar Police Force is trying its utmost to ensure security and law enforcement activities for the public despite an unbalanced ratio between police and the population in comparison with the international standard, said Police Lt-Col Myo Aung. He went on to say that according to the international standard, the police-population ratio is 1:400. But in Mandalay and Yangon Regions, the average ratio of police-to-public

is 1:1300 and 1:1400. Mandalay District saw 26 police stations and 1,160 police members; although in total there should be 1,365 police officers under the police organizational chart. "We provide security and law enforcement activities such as patrolling in cooperation with respective partnership organizations with the use of our own motorcycles," he added.

The total population in Mandalay District is 1,575,473. Under the current police-public ratio, one police officer has to provide security for 1,358 people.—Su Su Shi ■

Five security personnel injured in ambush attack in Northern Rakhine

A vehicle from a local military engineering regiment was attacked with an improvised explosive device in an ambush assault by suspected terrorists near Kyunpauk Pyusue Village

on Maungtaw-Taungpyo Road in Maungtaw, Northern Rakhine State this morning.

Five members of the security forces were injured in the attack. The injured persons have

been admitted to a public hospital in Maungtaw. One of them is in serious condition. Fighting between security forces and attackers continues at the scene of the incident.—MDN ■

Six jade scavengers died in slag-heap collapse in Hpakant Township

Six jade scavengers were killed and another injured in a landslide at an abandoned jade mine in Hpakant Township in Kachin State on 4 January.

The jade mine is being operated by Jade Lin Mining Company near Mawmounbwam Village about a quarter of a mile east of Phakant.

Six jade scavengers were killed and one person was injured by a collapsing slag heap on Thursday—Win Naing (Kachin Land) ■

'Bomb cyclone' hits US East Coast energy, power supply

NEW YORK/LONDON — A severe winter storm froze pipes and disrupted services at refineries on the US Atlantic coast on Thursday, sending fuel prices higher as heavy snowfall and high winds caused electricity outages for almost 80,000 homes and businesses.

The only nuclear plant in Massachusetts was shut just after 2 pm because of the failure of a line that connects the reactor to the power grid. Entergy Corp (ETR.N), which operates the Pilgrim Station, said it had not identified the cause of the line problem. ISO New England, which operates the region's power grid, attributed the shutdown to blizzard conditions. The company did not say when the station would restart. Utilities in the Southeast have restored service to some customers who were hit by the storm overnight. Heavy snow pounded the East Coast from Maine as far south as



Ahead of an incoming winter snow storm, a Jet Blue flight waits to take off from Logan International Airport next to the frozen waters of the Atlantic Ocean harbour between Winthrop and Boston, Massachusetts, US, on 3 January 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

North Carolina on Thursday, taking out power lines, icing roadways and closing schools. The storm was powered by a rapid plunge in barometric pressure that some weather forecasters referred to as bombogenesis or a "bomb cyclone," which brought high winds and swift, heavy snowfall.

The region has also been in the grip of a prolonged cold spell.

Prices for heating oil HO-NYH HO-DIFF-NYH and natural gas in the US Northeast hit their highest levels in years on the back of near-record heating demand. Benchmark US heating oil futures HOc1 are near their highest in almost three years.

The US average home residential heating oil prices rose 5.4 per cent to \$3.078 a gallon in the week

through 1 January from a week earlier, according to data from the US Energy Information Administration. On the East Coast, prices rose 5.4 per cent to \$3.085 a gallon.

US average residential heating oil prices for the 2017-18 period are well above the 2016-17 levels, the data showed.

US natural gas demand was expected to re-

main near record highs this week. Natural gas is the major fuel for residential and commercial heating in the US Northeast and is also widely used by power plants.

On Thursday, natural gas futures NGc1 fell 12.8 cents, or 4.3 per cent, to settle at \$2.880 per million British thermal units. That was the biggest one-day decline for the contract in three weeks as less cold weather was predicted. However, regional prices soared under pressure from the cold snap.

US spot natural gas and power prices on Thursday rose to their highest in years in several regions.

Next-day power prices in New England E-NE-PLMHP-IDX and PJM E-PJWHRT-IX, which covers much of the US mid-Atlantic and Midwest region, rose to their highest since January 2014 due to a spike in local natural gas prices. —Reuters ■

New Zealand storm sparks evacuations and cuts power

WELLINGTON — Gale-force winds battered New Zealand's North Island on Friday, tearing off roofs, bringing down trees, cutting power and forcing residents to flee flooded seaside towns.

The storm, which began on Thursday, was easing in the upper part of the North Island but would continue to wreak havoc as it moved south and hit the capital, Wellington, forecasters said.

A tree smashed into a car in the eastern town of Rotorua, killing a woman, police said.

"We ask that people avoid low lying roads and coastal areas across Bay of Plenty as water levels are high, making conditions extremely dangerous," the statement added.

In Kaiaua, a seaside town south of Auckland, authorities called for residents to evacuate as strong tides submerged the coast. "My husband said 'I think we need to go' and I looked to see where he was pointed and the sea was coming in like a tsunami. It came in real fast," Kaiaua resident Diana Gausden told the New Zealand Herald. —Reuters ■

Dozen dead, scores injured in South Africa train crash

JOHANNESBURG — More than a dozen people were killed and hundreds were feared injured after a train struck a lorry, derailed and burst into flames in South Africa on Thursday.

Footage from television news showed fire engulfing one of the train's carriages after the accident, which occurred as it travelled between Port

Elizabeth and Johannesburg.

Transport Minister Joe Maswanganyi said the train, which was carrying 700 passengers, jumped the tracks after hitting the truck, which was attempting to negotiate a level crossing.

He said preliminary investigations suggested 12 people had died in the crash and 268 were injured,

including four critically.

Emergency services said 14 people had died, and dozens were hurt, calling the minister's injury estimate premature.

"I have been briefed that the accident was the result of a truck that was driving through a level crossing... You can see for yourself the truck driver was taking chances," Maswanganyi said on the news

channel of national broadcaster SABC. He said the driver had survived and police were investigating.

Emergency services and rail officials were not immediately able to confirm the circumstances of the crash. South Africa has the continent's largest railway network, but it has been plagued by mismanagement and under-investment that has seen train

use dwindle despite it being the cheapest form of public transportation.

In a recent report, the government's Rail Safety Regulator (RSR) said that, in the 2016/17 financial year, 495 people lost their lives in the country's railway environment and 2,079 were injured.

The death toll was up 5 per cent increase from the previous year. —Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE M.V NINOS VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Major fire breaks out at highrise in India's Mumbai

NEW DELHI — A major fire broke out at a high-rise apartment building in India's financial capital Mumbai Friday, police and fire officials said.

The blaze started at Zia Apartment on Belasis Road in central Mumbai this afternoon.

"Fortunately, there have been no reports of any casualty in the inci-

dent as all occupants of the building have been evacuated by firefighters braving the raging blaze in the apartment building," a senior police official said.

Fire officials said that some 10 fire tenders have been pressed into service.

"Firefighters are trying to contain the fire. No injuries are reported till now. We are doing our best

to ensure that the fire does not spread to upper floors," Mumbai's chief fire officer P.S. Rahangdale told the media.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, he added. The fire incident came a day after four people were killed and nine others injured in a fire at another building in Mumbai, and a week after

14 people, mostly young women, were killed in the fire at a trendy rooftop pub in Mumbai's Kamala Mills complex.

Fires are common in eateries and buildings in India, mainly because of lack of regards for safety norms and fire-fighting equipment like hose-pipes and alarm systems. —Xinhua ■

North Korea agrees to talks after US-South Korea military drills are postponed

SEOUL —North Korea agreed on Friday to hold official talks with the South next week, the first in more than two years, hours after the United States and South Korea delayed a military exercise amid a standoff over the North's nuclear and missile programmes.

South Korea said the North had sent its consent for the talks to be held on Tuesday. The last time the two Koreas engaged in official talks was in December 2015. The meeting will take place at the border truce village of Panmunjom

where officials from both sides are expected to discuss the Winter Olympics, to be held in the South next month, and other inter-Korean relations, South Korean Unification Ministry spokesman Baik Tae-hyun told reporters.

North Korea asked for further negotiations about the meeting to be carried out via documented exchanges, Baik said. The officials to represent the two Koreas have yet to be confirmed. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un opened the way for



A South Korean government official checks the direct communications hotline to talk with the North Korean side at the border village of Panmunjom, South Korea, on 3 January 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

talks with South Korea in a New Year's Day speech in which he called for reduced tensions and flagged the North's possible participation in the Winter Olympics.

But Kim remained steadfast on the issue of nuclear weapons, saying the North would mass produce nuclear missiles for operational deployment and again warned he would launch a nuclear strike if his country was threatened. US President Donald Trump and his South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-in announced on Thursday that annual large-scale military drills would now take place after the Olympics.

The North sees these drills as preparations for invasion and just cause for

its weapons programmes that it conducts in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. South Korea and the United States are technically still at war with North Korea after the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended with a truce, not a peace treaty. Trump had earlier called the proposed inter-Korean talks a "good thing" and that he would send a high-level delegation, including members of his family, to the Olympics, according to South Korea's presidential office. —Reuters ■

China warns of second wave of snow after blizzard alert lifted

SHANGHAI/BEIJING — China warned of a second wave of snow and sleet hitting northern, central and eastern parts on Friday after record snowfall paralyzed parts of the country in the most severe weather this winter.

Heavy snowfall has wreaked havoc in central and eastern China since Tuesday, killing 10 people and disrupting the lives of more than half a million people in five provinces, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

Agriculture has also been hit, with economic losses amounting to 510 million yuan (\$79 million)

so far. The National Meteorological Centre lifted a blizzard alert, but said light to moderate snowfall was expected to sweep across much of the north between Friday and Sunday.

Snow has disrupted public transport and energy supplies, damaged power lines and shut roads, airports and schools in parts of central China. All power in Suizhou, a small city of 2.5 million people in the north of central Hubei province, was down due to heavy snow, state broadcaster China Central Television reported. —Reuters ■

Sri Lankan president meets 5-year-old boy, world's youngest author by Guinness Record

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena honored on Friday a Sri Lankan child who set a Guinness World Record as the world's youngest author, a statement from the President's Office said on Friday.

The president received the boy Thanuwana Serasinghe, aged only four years and 356 days, in his office on Friday. The

child arrived at the President's Office along with his parents and offered a copy of his book titled Junk Food to the president.

The president's office said the child had only taken three days to write the book. The president gave his blessings to the child and wished him success in his education. —Xinhua ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE

Date: 6th January, 2018

Invitation to Bid

for

Rental Power Generation Plant in Myingyan Region (EPGE G-01/2017-2018)

1. Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) seeks to invite tender for the purchasing of electricity on Rental basis in Myingyan Region.
2. The concession period for the power plant shall be **5 (five) years** from commercial operation date (COD).
3. The Tender Form fees is Myanmar Kyats **300,000/-** (Myanmar Kyats three hundred thousand only) and can be purchased at Procurement Department, Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
4. The bidders shall send the technical and commercial proposal addressed to
Tender Evaluation Committee
Electric Power Generation Enterprise,
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
5. The bid submission date is 20th February, 2018 at 14:00 hr. Myanmar Standard Time.
6. Bidding Proposal must be submitted at the address on time. Any late proposal shall be rejected.
7. The bidders shall make the proposals in accordance with the **Invitation for Bid and Supplemental Request for Proposal (SRFP)**.
8. The necessary information of this project tender can be inquired within office hour.

Attention to

Tender Evaluation Committee,
Electric Power Generation Enterprise
Ph +95 9 8601033, + 95 67 8104281, +95 96 8104282
Fax +95 67 8104280
thermalepge@gmail.com

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE

Date: 6th January, 2018

Invitation to Bid

for

Rental Power Generation Plant in Kyaukse Region (EPGE G-02/2017-2018)

1. Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) seeks to invite tender for the purchasing of electricity on Rental basis in Kyaukse Region.
2. The concession period for the power plant shall be **5 (five) years** from commercial operation date (COD).
3. The Tender Form fees is Myanmar Kyats **400,000/-** (Myanmar Kyats four hundred thousand only) and can be purchased at Procurement Department, Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
4. The bidders shall send the technical and commercial proposal addressed to
Tender Evaluation Committee
Electric Power Generation Enterprise,
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
5. The bid submission date is 20th February, 2018 at 14:00 hr. Myanmar Standard Time.
6. Bidding Proposal must be submitted at the address on time. Any late proposal shall be rejected.
7. The bidders shall make the proposals in accordance with the **Invitation for Bid and Supplemental Request for Proposal (SRFP)**.
8. The necessary information of this project tender can be inquired within office hour.

Attention to

Tender Evaluation Committee,
Electric Power Generation Enterprise
Ph +95 9 8601033, + 95 67 8104281,
+95 96 8104282
Fax +95 67 8104280
thermalepge@gmail.com

'Game of Thrones' last season set for 2019

LOS ANGELES — "Game of Thrones" fans will have to wait until 2019 for the planned final season of the award-winning medieval fantasy series, a gap of more than a year since the end of season seven.

Cable channel HBO said on Thursday that "Game of Thrones" would return in 2019 for a six-episode final season. It did not specify the month.

The series is HBO's biggest hit ever with some 30 million viewers in the United States alone and an army of devoted fans worldwide.

The final season of the Emmy Award-winning show is expected to reveal which of the warring families in the fictional Seven Kingdoms of Westeros will win the multigenerational struggle for control of the Iron Throne.

Production on the final season started in October, and filming is expected to last until mid-2018. HBO's head of programming, Casey Bloys, has said multiple endings will be filmed to avoid leaks or hacks of how the saga ends.

Show creators David Benioff and D.B. Weiss told Entertainment Weekly in 2016 that they wanted to make the series finale as spectacular as possible. HBO said on Thursday that Benioff and Weiss will also direct the final season.—Reuters ■



Singer Drake performs at the 2011 American Music Awards in Los Angeles in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hip hop and R&B surpass rock as biggest US music genre

LOS ANGELES — Hip hop and R&B surpassed rock for the first time in 2017 as the biggest music genre in the United States, but British artist Ed Sheeran's romantic pop album "Divide" was the year's biggest single draw, according to a Nielsen Music report.

Powered by a 72 per cent increase in on-demand audio streaming, eight of the top 10 albums came from the world of rap or R&B, including Kendrick Lamar's "DAMN," Drake's "More Life" and "24K Magic" by Bruno Mars, according to Nielsen Music's 2017 year-end report, released on Wednesday.

Rap and R&B also dominate the Grammy awards later in January, with rapper Jay-Z

and Lamar leading nominations. In a reflection of the demise of rock among young people, the Coachella music festival line-up announced earlier this week featured no rock headliner for the first time in the 19-year history of the three-day Southern California event.

Pop star Taylor Swift had the biggest album of 2017 in terms of sales with "Reputation," with 1.9 million units sold, Nielsen said. The album, Swift's first in three years, was kept off streaming for the first three weeks after its release in November.

But it was Sheeran whose music dominated radio, digital and streaming in 2017. "Divide" notched up 2.7 million

units, including sales and streaming activity, and the 26 year-old singer-songwriter's single "Shape of You" spent 33 weeks on Billboard's Hot 100 chart and was streamed one billion times.

Billboard charts tally units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Vinyl sales surged for a 12th year in a row - up 9 per cent in 2017 - especially among older fans. The top selling vinyl albums were The Beatles "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," powered by a 50th anniversary reissue, and the British band's 1969 release, "Abbey Road."—Reuters ■

Madonna to build four more schools in Malawi

LOS ANGELES — Starting off the new year on a positive note, music icon Madonna has announced plans to building four new schools in Malawi.

The 59-year-old artiste took to Instagram to share the news with her fans and followers.

She also urged people to help her in bringing the total number of schools to 14 in the African country, through her charity, Raising Malawi and non-profit organisation, Build On.

"Let's start 2018 off right! I'm challenging you all to stand up, come together and be the change you want to see in the world!"

"This year we'll begin by building four brand new schools in the Kasungu District of Malawi with Raising Malawi and buildOn! That's 14 schools in total that will help thousands of kids get the education they so rightfully deserve! Now is the time! Join the revolution of love!" Madonna wrote alongside her picture with the Malawian children.

The "Papa don't preach" hitmaker's charity announced in January 2012 to build 10 primary schools to serve more than 1,000 children in rural Malawi with Build On. Madonna adopted her children David Banda (12) and Mercy James (11) in 2006 and 2009 respectively, and twins Esther and Stella Mwale (five) earlier this year from Malawi.—PTI ■

Party or not? Golden Globes proves test for Hollywood sex scandal

LOS ANGELES — The red carpet is rolling out, the champagne is on ice and the statuettes are about to be handed over.

But with the cloud of sexual harassment hanging over Hollywood's annual round of self-congratulations, the Golden Globe ceremony on Sunday marks the first test of how the industry will handle live on the world's stage a scandal that has rocked show business.

"This is an issue that is center stage in Hollywood and is playing out at the award shows," said Tom O'Neil, founder of awards website GoldDerby.com.

Celebrities and filmmakers who were once major players during awards season have been

shunned, written out of shows or snubbed in nominations.

Women are planning to wear black on the Golden Globes red carpet to signal support of sexual harassment victims; a major talent agency has canceled its annual Golden Globes party to instead fund legal defence for victims; and the Screen Actors Guild Awards later in January will feature all female presenters.

The mood ahead of the Oscars on 4 March ranges from nervousness to eagerness to take a stand.

"Everyone I have been talking to is relishing the opportunity to make this kind of visibility and attention more meaningful than



Crew members work on stage in front of the set for the 65th annual Golden Globe Awards news conference at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, California in 2008. PHOTO: REUTERS

simply about the glorification of a single profession," actress Michelle Williams, who is Golden Globe nominated for "All the Money in the World," told Reuters.

More than 30 men have accused Kevin Spacey of sexual misconduct and more than 70 women have made allegations against film producer Harvey

Weinstein.

Dustin Hoffman, comedian Louis C.K. and Jeffrey Tambor are among dozens of other celebrities, politicians and businessmen who have been accused of sexual impropriety.

Reuters is unable to independently verify any of the accusations. Weinstein has denied having any non-consensual sex with anyone, Spacey apologized to one of his accusers but was erased from "All the Money in the World" and written out of his TV series "House of Cards."

Hoffman and Tambor have denied any wrongdoing. C.K. admitted past misconduct and his movie and TV projects have been dropped.—Reuters ■

Metropolitan Museum to charge fixed admission fee for non-New Yorkers

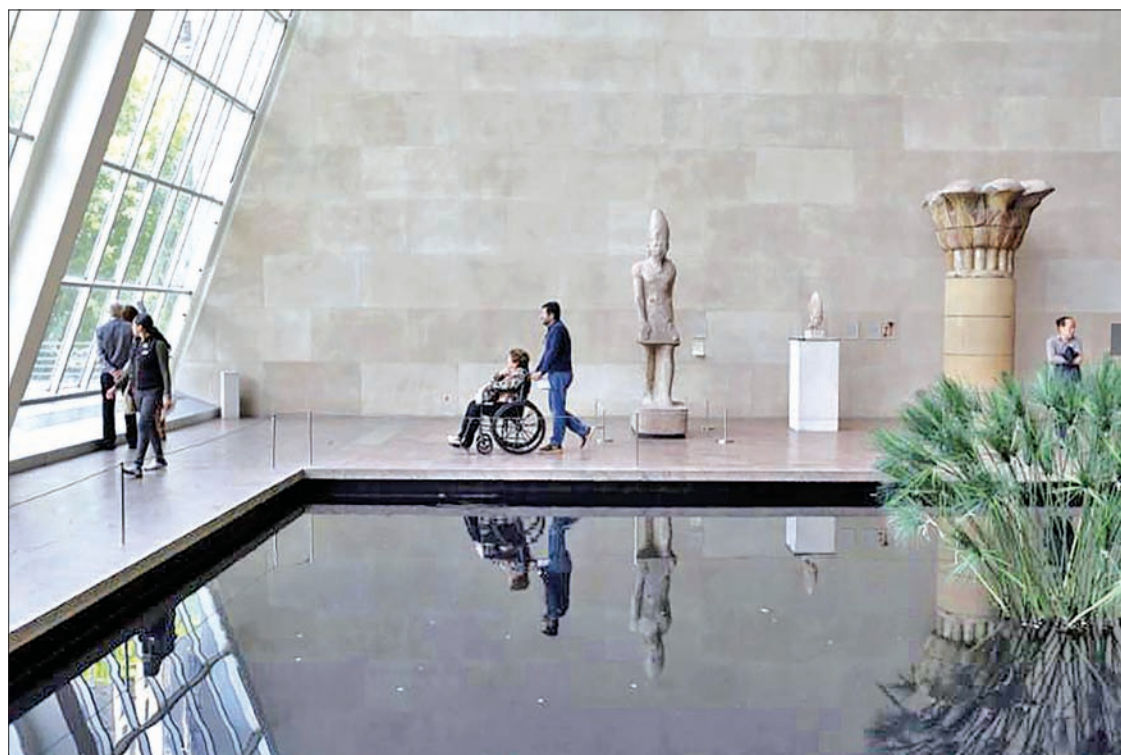
NEW YORK — New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art, one of the world's most popular museums, will start charging a fixed admission fee for out-of-state visitors rather than urge they pay a suggested donation, museum officials announced on Thursday.

The shift comes as a growing number of visitors have opted out of paying the full suggested donation, currently \$25 for adults, \$17 for seniors and \$12 for students, Daniel Weiss, the museum's president, told reporters.

From 1 March, those suggested amounts will become mandatory for visitors who are not members and who do not live in New York State, getting them a three-day pass in return.

"In 2004, 63 per cent of those who came paid the full recommended price," Weiss said. "In 2017, that is 17 per cent. Effectively the policy is failing."

New Yorkers will continue to pay what they wish, so long as it is a penny or more, as will students from the neighbouring states of Connecticut and New



A family visits the Ancient Egypt section of the Metropolitan Museum of Art on Mother's Day in New York City, US, on 14 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Jersey and any child under 12 years old. The new policy will affect about 31 per cent of the roughly 7 million people visiting the museum each year, Weiss said. The extra \$5 million to \$11 million the museum estimates

this will generate will be a modest boost towards covering its annual operating budget of about \$305 million.

The museum, spread across three sites in the city, is home to thousands of exhibits, from

ancient Egyptian art to Renaissance paintings. The city leased the land on which the main building sits, a prime slice of Manhattan's Central Park, in 1878 on condition that the museum be free to the public most days. The

museum switched to suggested donations in the early 1970s but only updated its lease with the city to reflect this in 2013.

The lease amendment also allowed the possibility of the museum charging a compulsory entrance fee, with the city's consent, though the museum said in 2013 it had no plans to do so.

Weiss said the museum was unique among institutions of its size around the world in that it receives neither substantial state funding, as do the museums grouped under the Smithsonian in Washington, nor relies on fixed admission prices, as venues such as the Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan do.

The city's government, which approved the change, currently covers a little less than 10 percent of the museum's expenses, Weiss said, but may reduce its contribution by up to \$3 million in order to give more to other cultural institutions. Another 14 per cent of revenue comes from donations at the door, a figure expected to rise to 16 or 17 per cent under the new policy. —Reuters ■

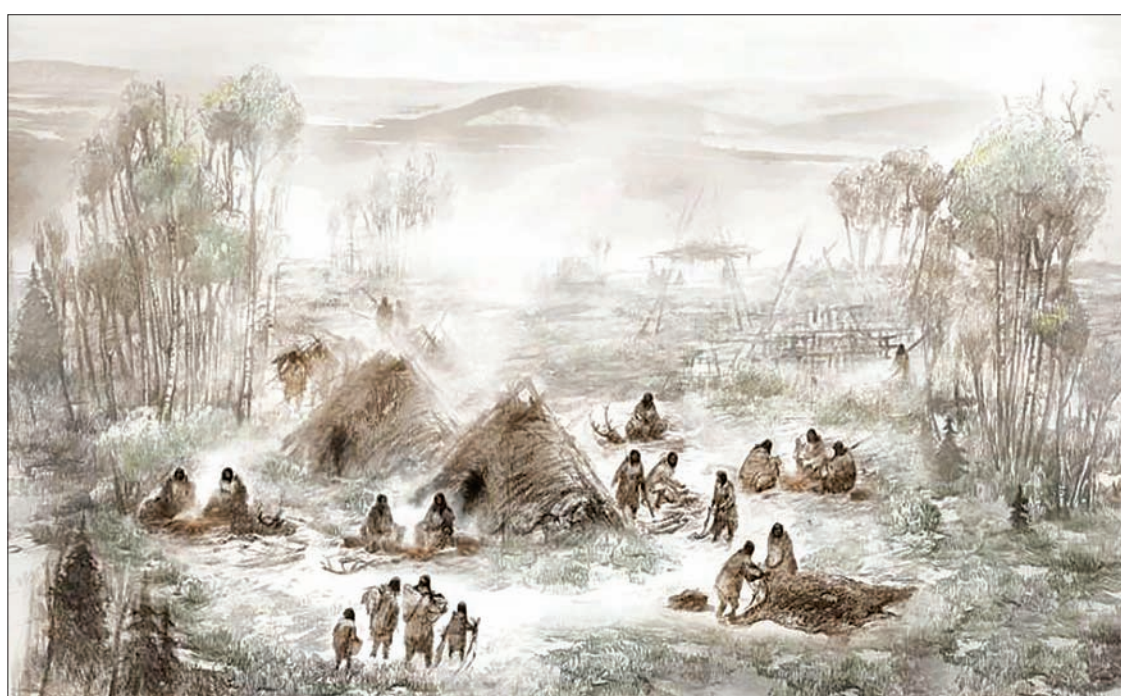
Alaskan 'sunrise' girl sheds light on how humans populated Americas

WASHINGTON — Ancient DNA extracted from the skull of a six-week-old baby girl whose 11,500-year-old remains were unearthed in a burial pit in central Alaska is helping scientists resolve long-standing controversies about how humans first populated the Americas.

Scientists said on Wednesday a study of her genome indicated there was just a single wave of migration into the Americas across a land bridge, now submerged, that spanned the Bering Strait and connected Siberia to Alaska during the Ice Age.

The infant — named "sunrise girl-child" (Xach'itee'aanenh T'eede Gaay) using the local indigenous language — belonged to a previously unknown Native American population that descended from those intrepid migrants, the researchers added.

"The study provides the first direct genomic evidence that all Native American ancestry can be traced back to the same source population during the last Ice Age," University of Alaska Fairbanks archaeologist Ben Potter said.



An illustration released on 3 January 2018 depicts the Upward Sun River base camp site in central Alaska, where the 11,500-year-old remains of a 6-week-old girl were discovered in 2013. The girl's genome shows she belonged to a previously unknown population or early Native Americans and shed light on the timing and nature of the first migration of people into the Americas during the last Ice Age. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The remains of the infant — part of a hunter-gatherer culture that hunted bison, elk, hare, squirrels and birds and caught salmon — were unearthed in 2013 at a prehistoric encampment in Alaska's Tanana River Valley about 50 miles (80 km) southeast of Fairbanks.

Our species first arose in Africa roughly 300,000 years ago, and later spread around the world. The researchers studied the baby's genome and genetic data covering other populations to unravel how and when the Americas were first populated.

A single ancestral Native

American group split from East Asians about 36,000 years ago and thousands of years later crossed the land bridge, they said. This founding group diverged into two lineages about 20,000 years ago.

The first lineage trekked south of the huge ice caps that

covered much of North America between 20,000 and 15,000 years ago, spreading throughout North and South America and becoming the ancestors of today's Native Americans.

The second was the newly identified population called Ancient Beringians who included the infant. They eventually disappeared, perhaps absorbed into another population that later inhabited Alaska.

Some scientists previously hypothesized about multiple migratory waves over the land bridge as recent as 14,000 years ago.

The girl was found alongside remains of an even-younger female infant, possibly a first cousin, whose genome the researchers could not sequence. Both were covered in red ochre and surrounded by decorated antler tools.

"Even the one that got sequenced was a huge challenge due to poor DNA preservation," said Eske Willerslev, director of the University of Copenhagen's Centre for GeoGenetics. The research was published in the journal *Nature*. —Reuters ■

Barca held at Celta, Real Madrid ease to victory

BARCELONA — Real Madrid are on the verge of reaching the King's Cup quarter-finals after winning 3-0 at Numancia on Thursday while holders Barcelona still have work to do after being held to a 1-1 draw at Celta Vigo.

Gareth Bale made his first start in over three months and opened the scoring for Real against the second division side from the penalty spot in the 35th minute, but the hosts remained in contention until they had midfielder Pape Diamanka sent off for a second booking on the hour.

Numancia still troubled Real with 10 men and Inigo Perez gave Zinedine Zidane's side a fright by hitting the bar but Real stretched their lead with two late strikes.

Isco converted from the penalty spot in the 88th minute and Borja Mayoral scored a header in stoppage time to give Numancia a near impossible task in the second leg at the Bernabeu on 10 January.

"I'm happy we kept a clean sheet. We scored two goals from the penalty spot but they all count," Real defender Nacho Fernandez told reporters.

"They hit the crossbar but overall we were strong in defence and didn't suffer too much."

Triple Cup holders Barca failed to win away to Celta for the third

consecutive game in all competitions and head into the second leg at the Nou Camp on 11 January needing a win or a goalless draw to qualify for the quarters.

Barca forward Jose Arnaiz poked in Andre Gomes's low cross to complete a sweeping counter-attack and put Barca ahead in the 15th minute, scoring for the third Cup game in a row.

Denmark international Pione Sisto leveled for Celta in the 31st, smashing the ball into the roof of the net after Iago Aspas had hit the underside of the crossbar.

Barca's record signing Ousmane Dembele came on in the second half to make his first appearance since rupturing his hamstring in September and nearly scored the winner, but his low shot was saved by Celta goalkeeper Sergio Alvarez.

Barca hit the woodwork twice, Sergio Busquets crashing a shot against the bar and Sergio Roberto striking the post in stoppage time while Turkish international Emre Mor went close to grabbing a winner for Celta.

Coach Ernesto Valverde made seven changes to the Barca side that beat Real Madrid 3-0 in their last game while Celta, coached by former Barca assistant Juan Carlos Unzué, fielded a full-strength team.—Reuters ■

Mourinho says talk of Man United departure is 'garbage'

LONDON — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has dismissed speculation about his future at the Premier League club, saying he would like a long-term stay at Old Trafford provided the team's owners are happy with his input.

After a relatively successful start to his United tenure last season, where they finished sixth in the league and won the Europa League and League Cup titles, Mourinho's side have been overshadowed by bitter rivals Manchester City this campaign.

United are 15 points behind league leaders City in second position and suffered a shock League Cup exit last month and Mourinho's growing frustration at his team's inconsistent form has been noticeable, leading to

reports of his exit.

"I say garbage, I don't find a better word than that to define the talk," Mourinho told reporters when asked about a potential departure from United. "My intention is to stay and to work and to improve and to bring the club to where the club belongs."

"I repeat I am in the middle of my contract, if I am going to sign a new one it depends on the club but my commitment is total and I want to stay."

"I see myself here (after three years), is just a question of (whether) the club... are all happy with my contribution and they want me to stay beyond the end of this contract."

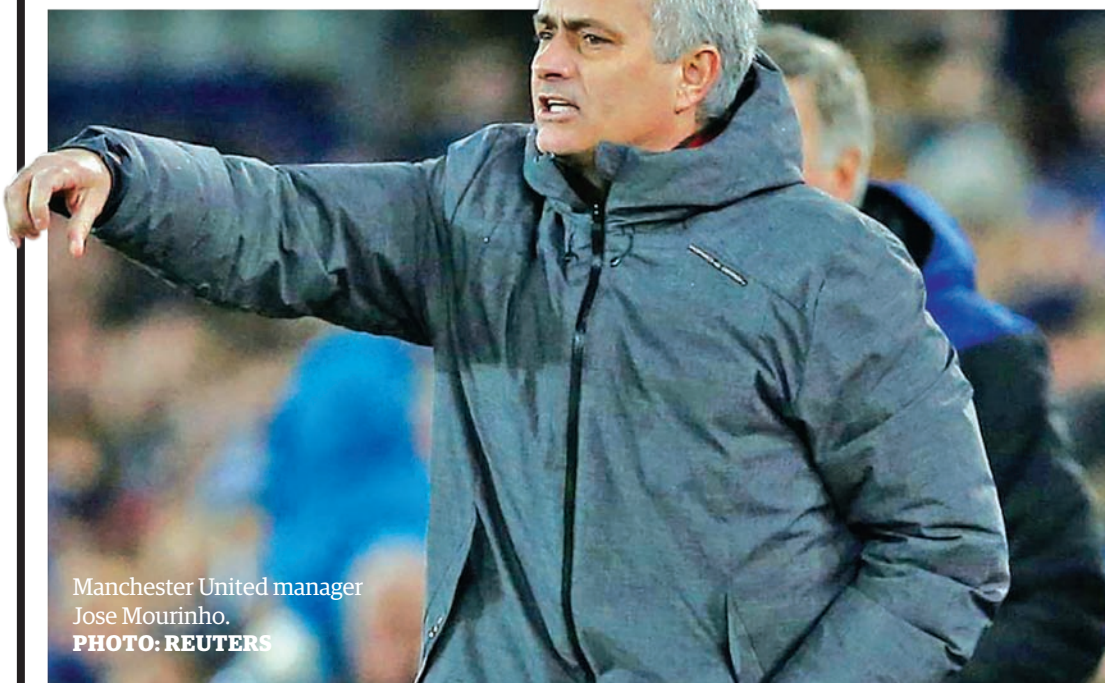
United's decline in form has

been contrasted by that of Pep Guardiola's City, who are yet to be beaten in the league and competing impressively on all fronts.

Former Real Madrid and Inter Milan manager Mourinho also hit out at those questioning his professionalism, saying he was fully committed to United.

"The worst thing someone can do to me is to put one inch of doubt on my professionalism or in my dedication to my club, my job, my players and to every detail related to my job," Mourinho added.

United striker Romelu Lukaku and midfielder Marouane Fellaini are set to return from their respective injuries for the club's FA Cup opener against Derby County on Friday.—Reuters ■



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho.
PHOTO: REUTERS



Simona Halep of Romania hits a return during the semi-final match against her compatriot Irina-Camelia Begu at the WTA Shenzhen Open tennis tournament in Shenzhen, China, on 5 January 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

Halep powers past Begu to reach Shenzhen Open final

SHENZHEN — World number one Simona Halep of Romania tamed compatriot Irina-Camelia Begu in straight sets to reach the final of the Shenzhen Open in China on Friday.

Halep, who hit 15 winners to win 6-1, 6-4 in an hour and 29 minutes, relied on precision and counter-punching in a tight second set to seal a second career final at Shenzhen.

Up next for Halep is the winner of the second semi-final between defending champion

Katerina Siniakova and five-times grand slam champion Maria Sharapova.

Top seed Halep broke her rival early in the contest to race to a 4-1 lead. Begu sent a forehand wide in a see-sawing sixth game as Halep broke again and took the first set on serve.

Begu, seeking a first win over Halep in her sixth attempt, fought back after an early break to lead 3-2 in the second set. She attacked her rival with great gusto but Halep subdued the comeback

attempt and sealed the match.

"It was a tough match," Halep said in a courtside interview. "I know she is a strong player and in the second set you could see she was improving her game so it was a tougher battle."

"I think I was strong enough to stay there and hit the ball stronger in the end because the energy was falling a little bit. I came back, I served pretty well in the last game and I'm pretty proud of my victory today, it was a tough one." —Reuters ■