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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Mandalay hosts a grand religious ceremony where well-wishers from Myanmar and Thailand donate provisions to 20,000 members of the Sangha. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar-Thai donation for 20,000 monks

WELL-WISHERS of the Myanmar and Dhammakaya Foundation of Bangkok, Thailand, donated provisions to 20,000 members of the Sangha at an auspicious and grand ceremony sponsored by the Mandalay Region govern-

ment at Chanmyathazi Airport in Mandalay yesterday morning.

Also present at the ceremony were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin and Chief Minister of

Mandalay Region Dr Zaw Myint Maung, as well as Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Aung Kyaw Oo and its members, members of the regional cabinet and their wives, Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swa Win and senior officials, and heads of departments, in addition to de-

partmental personnel, members of social organisations, the Indian consul general, distinguished guests and other well-wishers.

The union minister, the chief minister and their delegations offered the dawn meal to eminent Sayadaws, State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, members of State

Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (SSMNC), members of the State Central Committee of the Sangha and Sayadaws from abroad, led by Chairman of SSMNC and Head of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa at the airport.

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'BANK OF THE YEAR IN MYANMAR 2017'

Awarded by Financial Times (The Banker)

Workshop held for acquiring books for IPRD libraries



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint leads a workshop on promoting community IPRD libraries. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended a workshop at the Department of Printing and Publications on Theinphyu Street in Yangon yesterday.

The workshop focused on the public libraries opened by the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) and their book reviews and purchase reports. The Director General

of IPRD U Ye Naing presented the book review and purchase report.

Next, the Union Minister gave instructions on opening and managing the community libraries. He said the libraries should include more than just the classics and add in books that will attract casual readers. He also

encouraged the formation of book clubs to develop reading habits for the people. He advised adding books written by authors local to their respective regions to rouse interest from the local people.

Afterwards, the attendants gave presentations engaged in discussions on many topics. — Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor to visit India near future

AT the invitation of His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will leave for the Republic of India to attend the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and the Celebration of 69th Republic Day of India.—MOFA ■

Public talk in Kawhmu held called “Youth and character”

A public talk under the title "Youth and character" was held in Kawhmu township's community centre yesterday. The public talk was done with collaboration between the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) and the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. The public talk was attended by U Zaw Min Aung, Hluttaw representative of Kawhmu Constituency (2), National literature award winning author Ko Kar (Kungyangon), Dr. Than Htay, township medical officer, Daw Yi Yi Lwin, the Head of Southern Yangon District's IPRD, and other interested guests. Daw Yi Yi Lwin led the public talk with a speech on the importance of building character and nurturing morally responsible youths. She said young people should be encouraged to read more to

broaden their knowledge and to avoid 'toxic' books which may hinder moral development. Ko Kar, winner of the 2017 National Literature Award, said he has seen increased interest by young people in public talks these years. He said he notices an increase in discipline and interest among the young people. He said he instructed the youths to develop their knowledge and skills. U Zaw Min Aung and Dr. Than Htay talked about what kind of topics young people should pursue as well the effects of social media. This was followed by participants asking question and engaging in the public talk. Community centers across the country hold public talks to foster compassion and build character among the citizens.—Naing Lin Kyaw, Kyaw Thura ■



A public talk to promote and develop character was held in Kawhmu Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

Substitute Development Task in Shan State

THE Chairman of Substitute Development Tasks, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, accompanied by State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Naing Win Aung and Chairman of the Leading Body of PaO Self-administered Zone U Khun San Lwin inspected the substitute development task in Popinn, Hmwepyin, Pinkhin and Lwel-mot village tracts in Naung-taya region in Southern Shan State, along with development throughout the region.

The Deputy Minister and party met local ethnic people, officials, and those from the PaO Self-administered Zone's leading body and departmental staff. In their meeting, the Deputy Minister explained about coordinating meetings

of management committees on substitute development tasks, to be held in Nay Pyi Taw.

He said, members of the management committee and representatives from departments selected Popinn, Hmwepyin, Pinkhin and Lwel-mot village tracts of Naung-taya region in Southern Shan State as pilot project areas. The three-year project, running from 2017 to 2020, is based on surveys of representatives from departments involved in the progress.

The Deputy Minister urged the local ethnic people to report their requirements and matters that are important for them, and to provide assistance for the success of the project.

Also, work done in 2017-2018 FY, future programmes in

the coming FY were discussed by officials the concerned and the Deputy Minister.

Next, the Deputy Minister and party inspected the power line from Popinn Village to Tykwe Village, Naungtaya, Pinlong Township and the construction of the Phayapyu-Saungnaing-Khanwe earthen road. They also inspected construction of Khanwe-Hgnatpyawpin-Kaungwine-Lwetaung earthen road (7/0 mile) and met with local residents, representatives of parliament, members of leading bodies and departmental staff.

Later, they inspected construction of the 4.4-mile Lwetaung-Kapatain-Nyaungchin(South)-Nyaungchin(East) earthen road.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut inspects 4 mile stretch of road from Lwetaung to Nyaungchin. **PHOTO: MNA**

Four civilians hurt in mine blasts near Tanai

FOUR civilians sustained serious injuries in mine explosions near Tanai, a township in Myitkyina District of Kachin State, on 19 and 20 January.

Ko Htar Mee Woo, 30, a resident of Ponekhon Ward in Tanai Town, suffered serious injuries on his right leg following the mine explosion on Friday. Ko Htar Mee Woo had gone fishing

in Nwanhaung Lake. U Gam Aung, 36, lost the lower part of his left leg in another mine explosion that occurred seven miles from the town on the following day. Two other men, including a teenager, sustained serious wounds in the explosion. The injured civilians were taken to Tanai Hospital for emergency treatment. — Win Naing (Kachinmyay) ■



An auspicious and grand religious ceremony to offer provisions to members of the Sangha in progress in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar-Thai donation for 20,000 monks

FROM PAGE-1

The deputy speaker, union ministers Thura U Aung Ko and Nai Thet Lwin, and the chief minister offered candle lights, while well-wishers in Myanmar and Thailand offered flowers during the opening ceremony. The congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Kumarabhivamsa and listened to the Ovada of the Sayadaw of Dhammakaya Monastery in Thailand through an audio file. The Sayadaws then recited the Parittas.

Six well-wishers from Thailand donated four kinds of offertories. Thura U Aung Ko then supplicated on religious matters, expressing his pleasure at the ceremony, in which provisions were presented to 20,000 monks.

He said as the monks are doing well in Pariyatti and Paripatti sectors, and the people are pro-

viding them with all the necessary assistance, there is harmony between the monks and lay persons that will help promote and propagate the Sasana not only in Myanmar and Thailand, but also in the world.

In his address, the chief minister said the Buddhists of Myanmar and Thailand and the Mandalay region government had set an example for the promotion and propagation of the Sasana on the auspicious occasion. Thai well-wishers also expressed happiness at the donations.

Chairman of Mandalay Region Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vicittabhivamsa delivered a sermon, after which the congregation shared in the merits gained.

The Deputy Speaker, the union ministers, the chief



Dignitaries offering candle lights at the ceremony to offer provisions to monks. PHOTO: MNA

minister and regional cabinet members, as well as the Central Command Commander, officials and well-wishers then presented Ks30,000 and offertories to

each of the 20,000 members of the Sangha. Locals, social organisations, departments, schools of Mandalay and its surrounding areas rendered assistance

during the ceremony. The congregation was also served food and soft drinks. —Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing House, Aye Mya (Mandalay)). ■



B.E.H.S (1) Dagon receives 21st blue plaque

The Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) has awarded its 21st blue plaque to B.E.H.S No. (1) Dagon in Dagon Township, which is over a hundred years old.

The school used to be a Methodist school, and as of 2018, is more than 100 years old. The plaque was installed during a ceremony at the school yesterday. The ceremony was opened by Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Htun.

Daw Moe Moe Lwin, a member of YHT, spoke at the ceremony. She hoped the installation of the plaques would raise awareness about heritage buildings and encourage people to take measures to conserve them. She said there are plans to collect historical information and install plaques near the heritage buildings. Dagon (1) was formerly an all-girls Methodist school, which first opened on Lewis Street (Seik Kan Thar Street) in 1882. Then in 1894, the school moved to its current location at the corner of Lan-

caster Street (Nawaday Street) and Alanpya pagoda Street.

The three-storey main building of the school is constructed in Victorian architectural style and is spread over 3.03 acres. The school was closed for six years following the Second World War, and during the Japanese colonisation, the school served as the office of the Burmese Independence Army. After the war, the school underwent renovation under the leadership of then Headmistress Mrs. Doreen A. Logie and reopened in 1947. On 20 February,

1952, President Sao Shwe Thaik renamed the school as Methodist English High School (M.E.H.S).

In April 1965, missionary schools in the country were appropriated as public property and placed under the Ministry of Education. The school's name was again changed to B.E.H.S No. (1) Dagon. Additional buildings were constructed in the school's compound between 1986 and 1998. The school now has 61 classrooms and regularly accepts more than 7,000 students. —Pwint Thitsar ■

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
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@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
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gnlmdaily@gmail.com

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Demand for winter clothes increases in western Myanmar

SALES of winter clothes are on the rise across Chin State in the western part of the country because of freezing temperatures this winter, according to local merchants.

Cold-weather gear and clothing, including hats, coats, gloves and blankets, have been selling well in all the townships of the state since early December. Retailers have bought clothing and accessories from wholesalers in Yangon, Mandalay and Kalay cities.

Second-hand clothes are also highly in demand because of their cheap prices. Among the various kinds of warm coats available, residents are choosing leather jackets, bomber jackets and fur coats, rather than cotton ones, said sellers.



Sales for coats, jackets, hats and other cold-weather gear have been on the rise this winter season. **PHOTO: ZOHAYHSAR**

"Based on the quality, clothes is selling for between a bale of second-hand warm Ks500,000 and Ks1 million,"

said U Pa Nang, a second-hand clothes seller in northern Chin State.

"This year has been colder than the previous winters, with some parts of the state thickly covered with snow and ice," a resident said.

Chin State is excruciatingly cold in the winter months. Sometimes, the temperature drops to minus three degrees Celsius.

Therefore, schoolchildren are allowed to wear blankets into the classroom to protect themselves from the low temperature. From early December, the temperature in the state fell to below zero, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. — Zohayhsar ■

Mandalay waterway improvement project to begin next month

IN a bid to facilitate the mooring of vessels and ships to the Mandalay port, authorities will start work on the Mandalay waterway improvement system in February.

This is one of the three programmes that is a part of the Ayeyawady Integrated River Basin Management Project.

It is backed by the World Bank's loan, said U Aung Myo Khaing, director of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR). The Mandalay waterway project area is situated between Sagaing Bridge and Mingun town. The wall construction activity for this project, at an estimated cost of US\$1.07 million, is slated for February.

Another project to build a

concrete anchor at a cost of \$2.13 million will start in December.

"For the improvement of the waterway, a secondary channel will be built to lessen the inflow of water, and prevent the collapse of the water bank in villages and the destruction of farmlands. The main channel will allow water to flow in quickly and create a smooth path for the vessels. The ships and vessels can dock at the port all year round only if the Mandalay waterway system improves," said Khaing.

To carry out the waterway improvement activity, the International Centre for Environment Management (ICEM) conducted an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and social impact assessment (SIA) and also met locals living in the project area

on 18 January at Aungmyinchin Hotel in Mandalay. The EIA and SIA activities were revealed to the public and relevant matters were discussed with them.

"Kyunsin and Talinesin villages situated in the project area will be in danger if the water bank collapses. The locals are encouraging the project owners to tackle this problem. They suggested cooperating with construction enterprises for a dredging activity under the supervision of a think-tank," Khaing explained. Starting from April 2017, the ICEM conducted a study tour in the project area, some 10 times, to gather the opinions of the residents. Additionally, research concerning the quality of river water, underground water and air pollution was conducted.

"Water transport is cheaper than road transport. Therefore, the improvement of the Ayeyawady waterway is crucial to facilitate trade. We agreed with the initiative of the experts. However, we want a cost-effective project and do not want to waste the loan," said U Maung Maung Oo, organiser of an environmental conservation group. The Ayeyawady Integrated River Basin Management Project is being implemented with a loan of \$100 million from the World Bank, which will be separate for the three programmes. The project activity for the Ayeyawady river water improvement system between Mandalay and NyaungU is included in component 3, with a fund allocation of \$36 million. — Khine Hset Wai ■

Road traffic deaths increased in Sagaing Region last year

SOME 1,690 traffic accidents occurred in Sagaing Region between January and December of last year, killing 450 individuals and injuring more than 3,000, according to official figures released by traffic police.

The report indicated that in March, 2017, there was a record high number of traffic accidents, with 183 accidents in the region.

Compared with the last two years, road accidents in 2017 significantly increased throughout the region. A total

of 1,641 accidents were recorded in 2016, with 1,484 cases in 2015. The number of injuries from road accidents also rose to some 3,000 in 2017, compared to 2,873 in 2016 and 2,528 in 2015.

According to the police report, the number of traffic deaths reached 450 in 2017, 421 in 2016 and 436 in 2015.

Authorities are taking concerted efforts to reduce road accidents by disseminating information about traffic rules to residents.

Also, action is being taken



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

against those reckless drivers and pedestrians who fail to

abide by the rules.—Myo Min Tun (Monywa) ■

Foreign demand pushes up prices of pigeon peas, mung bean

May Thet Hnin

THE prices of pigeon peas and mung beans rose slightly following increased demand from Bangladesh, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

The current price of mung beans is Ks552,000 per tonne, while the price of pigeon peas is Ks372,000 per tonne, which saw a slight increase in the last four to five months.

“Though mung beans and pigeon peas are being bought by Pakistan, the prices have not reached the previous year’s high yet. The prices have increased slightly because Dubai, Nepal,

Malaysia, Indonesia and Bangladesh are buying Myanmar’s beans,” said U Min Ko Oo.

According to India’s amended import policy, which was issued in August, it can buy only 200,000 tonnes of pigeon peas and 300,000 tonnes of mung beans and green beans from other bean exporting countries, including Myanmar.

Following India’s import restriction on pulses in August, the prices of mung beans and pigeon peas plummeted. Before the new import rule was announced, a tonne of pigeon peas fetched up to Ks650,000, while mung beans brought in Ks800,000 per tonne.

Moreover, some 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas and

nearly 200,000 tonnes of mung beans had been stockpiled for export by August when India suspended its pulses imports. Now, more than 20,000 tonnes of pigeon peas and some 100,000 tonnes of mung beans have been stockpiled following demand from other countries.

Expecting to import Myanmar beans only by the end of March, some Indian companies stocked Myanmar beans in December. They have already bought some 20,000 tonnes of beans from Myanmar.

The mung beans, pigeon peas and green beans market in Myanmar rely on the Indian market. Myanmar exports some 1.5 million tonnes of beans to India annually. ■



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Myanmar’s mango market expands

MYANMAR’S mango exports have increased each year alongside increases in local consumption, according to a report in the City News yesterday.

Myanmar’s mangoes have not only penetrated the local market but also the international market. Its high quality mangoes, called Sein Ta Lone (Diamond Solitaire) and Hinda, are being exported to Thailand, Singapore and China.

Currently, South Korea is conducting quality tests on Myanmar’s mangoes before importing them.

“The mangoes are main-

ly sent to the Chinese market through border trade camps. However, we do not want to lose the domestic market. Some 10 to 20 per cent of the mangoes produced in the country are consumed by the local people,” said the secretary of the association for technology and market promotion of Myanmar’s mangoes.

To increase local and foreign mango consumption, as well as exports, investments in the mango cultivation sector have increased, an official from the association for technology and market promotion of Myanmar’s mangoes revealed.

More than 200,000 acres are under mango cultivation in the Mandalay Region, while the Kyaukse Township mainly cultivates the Sein Ta Lone mango. Mango cultivation costs Ks500,000, while a mango tree is being sold for between Ks40,000 and Ks50,000, depending on its quality, noted a local grower.

There are more than 200 varieties of mangoes in Myanmar, but only 191 varieties are being cultivated. The Sein Ta Lone, Shwe Hinthta and Pad-anmyar Ngamauk varieties are the most favoured in the market.—GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း “Sunday Special” အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

“Sunday Special” အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရေဒီယိုဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ဓနုလင်းလမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၅၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၄၄၄၄၄၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၀) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ မုလ်ခွေရောင်ရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၅၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၄၅၇

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

တချင်းတုံ
မြို့ပေါ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပေါ်လမ်း၊ ကချင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဓမ္မယုရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြစ်ကြီးနား
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရမ္မာတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးစက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျည်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

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

ခြင်္သေ့
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ မြိတ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၀၃

မော်လမြိုင်
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Healthcare services ready for returnees in Rakhine

Interviewer: Tin Tun
(IPRD)

THE Ministry of Health and Sports will provide healthcare services at camps that will start scrutinising and accepting displaced persons from 23 January, under an agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh, according to Director General Dr Tha Tun Kyaw of the Public Health Department.

The director general said the ministry had already finalised its healthcare programme that will be provided at the repatriation camps. The repatriation programme involves officials of the department and its partners, such as the WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNOPS of the UN. These officials have arrived here to introduce management functions.

Currently, there are two repatriation camps – Taungpyoletwe camp and Ngakhuya camp. The immigration department is currently adopting repatriation procedures, while the health sector has already formed 11-member teams led by a doctor.

The teams will conduct



Officials inspecting a healthcare services for returnees. **PHOTO: KAN TUN (HANTAR MYAY)**

medical check-ups of the returnees to determine if they are suffering from any infectious diseases. The vaccination programme for them will depend on the kind of vaccine they were given in Bangladesh. The teams will give each person 11 kinds of vaccinations. They will also measure the height, weight and health condition of the returnees.

The teams will also examine elderly persons to determine if they have incommunicable diseases such as heart disorder, hypertension and diabetes. Pregnancy care programmes will also be made available to the returnees, which will provide the necessary vaccines to expectant mothers. Both repatriation camps will provide the same healthcare programmes.

If a returnee is found to be suffering from any severe illness, the ambulances on standby at the camps will take them to the hospital in Maungtaw.

The Hla Poe Khuang camp, which will accept returnees transferred from the two repatriation camps, already has 12-member health teams led by a doctor. The team will also provide anti-worm drugs, especially

to children, as well as medical check-ups and treatment for incommunicable diseases. The camp can give up to 11 kinds of vaccines. All the repatriation camps will have an adequate supply of medical equipment and medicines. According to WHO, a few returnees are suffering from certain kinds of infectious diseases contracted in Bangladesh. So, the teams will provide extra healthcare and treatment services to prevent the occurrence of an epidemic among the returnees. The department will use staff from Buthidaung and Maungtaw in Rakhine State in the initial stage. However, in the long run, health staff from other parts of the state will join in the programme as part-time workers. If the programme takes longer, it will be reinforced with health staff from other regions and states. Each camp will accept 150 returnees daily, which makes it 300 returnees per day. The health teams are expected to handle this number. Arrangements have also been made to ensure there are no shortages in healthcare services provided to ethnic people of other regions and states. ■

Social workers deliver humanitarian aid to Maungtaw and Buthidaung

The fourth wave of young social workers have arrived in Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships yesterday to aid the UEHRD (Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Developments in Rakhine) efforts there.

U Than Kyaw Htay, a member of the Department for Relief and Resettlement, said that the social workers went around the two towns to distribute rice, oil, salt, sardine cans, onions, potatoes and baby milk powders to families living in the area.

“We will survey which villages haven’t received aid yet and carry out the tasks soon,” said U Than Kyaw Htay. “We will be performing our tasks for the UEHRD until 30 January.”

The social workers had divided into two groups to assist the townships respectively. U Than Kyaw Htay said future tasks will include delivering



File photo shows the scene of young social workers providing foodstuff to the local ethnic people. **PHOTO: AUNG MIN**

aid to villages that have yet to receive them and that this will be accomplished with help from the Rakhine Government and generous donors from around the country. Social workers have

delivered aid to Maungtaw and Buthidaung since November 2017 and provided humanitarian aid to around 35,408 people in 84 villages.—Aung Ye Thwin, Ko Min ■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 21st January, 2018

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED : During the past (24) hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperature was (2°C) above January average temperature in Upper Sagaing Region and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were (-2°C) in Hakha, (2°C) each in Pinlaung and Heho, (4°C) each in Namsam and Loilin, (5°C) each in PyinOoLwin and Mogoke, (6°C) each in Thipaw, Lashio, Nyaungcho, Naungshwe and Tiddim. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthoung (0.04)inch.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

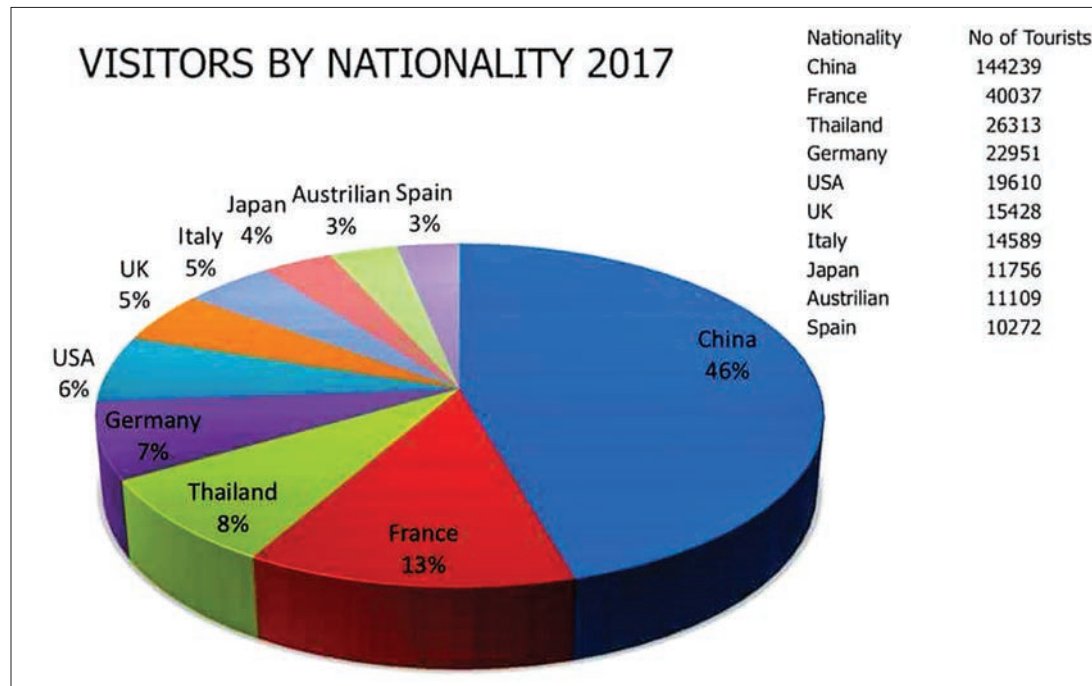
FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 22nd JANUARY, 2018: Light rain will be isolated in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Kayin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (2 - 4) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Decrease of night temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd JANUARY, 2018: Generally fair weather.

Tourist arrivals to Mandalay increased by 26 % in 2017



ARRIVALS of international tourist to Mandalay, the last royal capital of Myanmar, in 2017 increased by 26 per cent when compared with the previous year, according to the region's directorate of hotels and tourism.

The official statistics indicate that the region hosted a total of 783,784 holidaymakers in 2017. The figures are about 100,000 more than that of the previous year's total of 385,031. The majority of international visitors are from China, followed by France, Germany, Thailand and England.

The number of visitors who paid a visit to the region has annually been on the rise. The arrival of visitors

was 160,795 in 2012. It rose to 219,518 in 2013; 242,566 in 2014 and 306,432 in 2015.

Mandalay is famous for its cultural heritages among tourists. The significant tourist attractions of the region include Bagan cultural zone, Golden Palace Monastery, Kuthodaw Pagoda, Maha Myatmuni Pagoda, Mandalay Hill, Pahtodawgyi Pagoda, Mandalay Palace and Mandalay Fort, and other cultural heritage sites.

With the aim of promoting the region's smokeless industry, the tourism authorities are putting forth continuous efforts, including special programmes like a walking Thingyan, travel shows, Myanmar

traditional boxing events and lighting festivals. Besides those, a wide variety of services trainings have been given to the local community as part of tourism development plan.

Regarding the government's attempts to attract more travellers, U San Yu, assistant director of the aforesaid department, said: "Depending on culture, traditions and customs of individual foreign visitors, we prepare various ranges of services for them in advance. Concerted efforts are being made by the department to boost the sector in collaboration with relevant government departments and organizations.—Khine Hsat Wai

Unregistered vehicles seized in Thaton Township

THREE men on Friday were arrested by local police after they could not produce documents proving their ownership of cars in their possession, according to Thaton District Police.

Police say they arrested three unregistered Honda Fit cars on Yangon-Mawlamyine Road and Yangon-Hpa-an Road in Thaton Township on the same day.

During the operation, police firstly arrested Naing Myo Win, 25, who was driving a Honha Fit with number plat YGN7D/7482 near Aung Thitsa Restaurant on Yangon-Hpa-an Road. They then seized the 31-year-old Ye Win Tun (also known as Nay Myo Khine), driver of a car with number plat YGN3H/1950 near Sanpya Hospital on Yangon-Mawlamyine



Three Honda Fit cars were confiscated from local men when they could not show ownership. **PHOTO: THET OO (THATON)**

ine Road. A car with number plat YGN1G/7974 being driven by Kyaw Min Oo, 30, was also arrested by police while travelling along Yangon-Mawlamyine Road. Those suspects have

been charged under Section 8 of the Export and Import Law as they apparently imported the motor cars without permission from the Ministry of Commerce.—Thet Oo (Thaton)

Myanmar-ASEAN trade tops \$7.5 billion in current FY

TRADE between Myanmar and other ASEAN member states in the current fiscal year (FY) exceeded US\$7.5 billion, according to a monthly report of the ministry of commerce released this Friday.

Over the first eight months of this FY, the imports of commodities from ASEAN countries were \$4.7 billion, while exports reached \$2.8 billion in total.

Thailand topped on the list of top five ASEAN traders with \$3.2 billion, comprising \$2.3 billion from non-border trade and \$893 million from border trade, followed by Singapore with \$2.3 billion and Malaysia with \$757 million.

The bilateral trade with Indonesia was valued at \$662 million, with Viet Nam was \$489

million and with the Philippines was over \$33.3 million. Myanmar-Cambodia trade stood at \$3.2 million. However, trade with Brunei, Laos and Cambodia were fewer than \$2 million.

The country imports consumer products, capital goods and intermediate goods, chiefly from neighbours, and its exports cover domestically-produced fruits and vegetables, dried and fresh marine products, minerals, forest-based products and manufactured goods.

According to the ministry, Myanmar-ASEAN trade was \$8.7 billion in 2011-12 FY, \$8.411 billion in 2012-13 FY, \$11 billion in 2013-14 FY, \$12.6 billion in 2014-15 FY, \$10.4 billion in 2015-16 FY and \$9.6 billion in 2016-17 FY.—Shwe Khine

Bilateral trade with China reaches \$7.4 billion this FY

THE value of Myanmar's bilateral trade with China, as of November this fiscal year (FY), reached US\$7.4 billion, including \$3.42 billion in exports and \$4 billion in imports, according to figures released by the commerce ministry.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's regional trade with the Asean countries was the highest, closely followed by its bilateral trade with China. Myanmar's border trade with China was better than its sea trade.

Bilateral trade with China was some \$10.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$10.9 billion in the 2015-16 FY, \$9.7 billion in the 2014-2015 FY and \$7 billion

in the 2013-2014 FY, as well as \$4.95 billion in the 2012-2013 FY and \$5 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

Rice, various kinds of peas, sesame seeds and corn, as well as fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products and rubber, in addition to minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic tools flow into Myanmar.

China invested some \$1.2 billion in 50 projects this FY, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—Ko Htet

Ye town's offshore fishing businesses flourishing

FOLLOWING the abundant catch of fish and prawns this season, the fishing businesses in Ye Township, Mon State, are flourishing.

"We ran into a loss over labour wages in the last season because of terrible weather. This brought down the volume of our catch. However, dried prawn production increased this season," said a businessman.

Fish and dried prawn produced by Ye Township are sent

to Yangon market. The current market price is relatively closer to last season's price. A viss (1.6kg) of dried prawn fetches some Ks20,000 to Ks30,000; however, the market has remained cool.

According to data provided by the fishery department, there are some 377 inshore fishing boats, 198 offshore fishing boats and 4,708 authorised fishery workers for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.—Htut Htut

Unity, Peace and Development

THE Ethnic Sustainable Development Forum was held on 18th January 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw. The forum was held with the aim of discussing about ethnic affairs and regional development. This being so, it cannot be assumed that this forum is concerned with the frontier areas only. In fact, it is concerned with the entire nation and all the people of Myanmar.

All the national ethnic races have been co-existing here in Myanmar, a sovereign nation—on the same land made up of hilly regions, the main land, river basins, coastal areas and delta areas, which are designated as Regions and States. Accordingly, all these Regions and States are concerned with the Union-born nationals such

as Kachin, Kayah, Kay-in, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan.

In solving the problems of lagging behind in development as well, we will be able to create better results and a better future, provided that we must exert our concerted efforts with unity and strength, based upon positive thinking, right attitude, vision and our own firm stance.

At the above forum, U Henry Van Thio, the Vice-President said, “The Union Government is prioritizing implementation of regional peace and stability in the areas where the ethnic nationals are living. In some cases we have to proceed forward based on our similarities by setting aside different ideas and visions. Cooperation can be made, in spite of difference. Unity can be established in the midst of dissimilarities. The most important thing is to build up national peace. Only if good governance, correct instructions and just and fair administration can be accomplished together with peace, will we achieve national development. Then, we

will see all our people enjoy the fruits of peace. Regional peace and stability will bring about the socio-economic development of the region.”

Sustainable development of the national ethnic races is concerned with the whole nation and all our Union nationals. Yet, we are required to prioritize the tasks of bringing about development for our brethren national people and their regions that are lagging much behind in development. The main cause of challenges our country is now facing is none other than lagging behind in development in every sector. In a family, considerable inconveniences can cause consecutive problems and hardships in it, so also in a nation. In solving the problems of lagging behind in development as well, we will be able to create better results and a better future, provided that we must exert our concerted efforts with unity and strength, based upon positive thinking, right attitude, vision and our own firm stance. ■

A Glimpse of High Treason and Loyalty to the Nation

By Maung Sarga

PRESENTLY, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar constitutes respective Hluttaws/Parliaments seated by People’s representatives/parliamentarians elected by our entire national populace. Under the leadership of people’s representatives, the country is making its concerted efforts to reach the state of multi-development, by exercising 3 panels of the national sovereignty—legislative, executive and judicial powers, with the systematic manipulation, with a view to bringing about the eternal peace of the country through the national unity.

Every citizen must be loyal to their nation and the national people. Instead, if they are disloyal to the country, it is tantamount to betrayal of the people. Had a person been disloyal to the country he might have a tendency to make a revolt to his country. In case he will make an attempt to stage a revolt to the country, he will surely be sued and punished under the case of High Treason. Here, let me share a brief account of knowledge on high treason.

Meaning of high treason

In section 121 [1] of the Penal Code, the meaning of high treason

is defined as follows:

Whoever wages war against the Union of Myanmar or any constituent unit thereof, or assists any State or a person or incites or conspires with any person within or without the Union to wage war against the Union or any constituent unit thereof, or attempts or otherwise prepares by force of arms of other violent means to overthrow the organs of the Union or of its constituent units established by the Constitution, or takes part or is concerned in or incites or conspires with any person within or without the Union to make or to take part or be concerned in any such attempt shall be guilty of the offence of High Treason.

In studying the prescriptions of the section, 4 particulars can be found but the first three can be categorized into one group and the last one into another, thus mainly into two groups.

Penalty for the offence

Concerning penalty to be punished over the person who commits the offence of High Treason, it is strictly prescribed as follows:

122 (1) Whoever commits High Treason within the Union of Myanmar shall be punished with death

or transportation for life/20 years of imprisonment.

122 (2) Whoever, being a citizen of the Union of Myanmar or ordinarily resident within the Union, commits High Treason outside the Union shall be punished with death or 20 years of imprisonment.

Tracing the background history

To make offence of waging a war, inciting or conspiring against the Union, or any constituent more convinced, here is the section 121 of 1860 Indian Penal Code under the title of “Waging or attempting to wage or abetting waging of war, against the Government of India.”

Whoever wages war against the [Government of India], or attempts to wage such war, or abets the waging of such war, shall be punished with death, or [imprisonment of life] [and shall also be liable to fine.]

The prescription under section 121, detailed explanation has been given.

[A] Concerning waging wars there include kind of waging a war in the nation or advancement of forces from

After gaining Myanmar’s Independence, it was found that High Treason Act, 1948 [Act no/14, 1948] was enacted. With the explanations of the offences of high treason, the act had been promulgated as it was of great need for the enactment of penalties for those who committed, abetted or conspired concerning the offences.

an alien country as well as the ones outside the country.

[B] Concerning the validity of the offence, there is no restriction about numbers of those involved in the attempt. Attempts are valid regardless of arms and ammunitions, outfits, drums and fife band, flags or leading ones.

According to the prescription of the initially enacted penal code, it is found that those who just made only conspires cannot be punished, apart from those who conspired and abetted. Accordingly, for making punishment of those involved in attempted offences valid the following message had been included in the Indian Penal Code Amendment Act [27 of 1870] saying “Anyone who committed or conspired or abetted or attempted the offences punishable under section 121 of the penal code in or outside India territory is required to be sentenced to death or life imprisonment.

Enactment of special law

After gaining Myanmar’s Independence, it was found that High Treason Act, 1948 [Act no/14, 1948] was enacted. With the explanations of the offence

of high treason, the act had been promulgated as it was of great need for the enactment of penalties for those who committed, abetted or conspired concerning the offences.

1. The act shall be known as Act on High Treason.
2. Whoever wages war against the Union of Myanmar or any constituent unit thereof, or any State or a person or incites or conspires with any person within or without the Union to wage war against the Union or any constituent unit thereof, or attempts or otherwise prepares by force of arms of other violent means to overthrow the organs of the Union or of its constituent units established by the Constitution, or takes part or is concerned in or incites or conspires with any person within or without the Union to make or to take part or be concerned in any such attempt shall be guilty of the offence of High Treason.

[1] Whoever commits High Treason within the Union of Myanmar shall be punished with death sentence.

[2] Whoever, being a citizen of the Union of Myanmar or

ordinarily resident within the Union, commits High Treason outside the Union shall be punished with death sentence.

Inclusion of high treason act into the penal code

Though the high treason act, 1948 was separately enacted under act 14 of 1948, it was re-included in the Penal Code under act 20 of 1950. In brief, evidently enough, it is valid as the offence of high treason even if anyone made conspires to disintegrate the Union or any parts of the Union.

As the emergence of such a law is of great importance for the country throughout the history, it had been enacted since time many years ago.

Anyone who commits the offence must be severely punished. Even a hint of such an intention to do so should not be conceived in our minds, and it is of great vitality for us to abide by rules and to be loyal to the country.

May all the citizens contribute our physical and mental labors for the nation and the entire populace, being loyal to our mother land. ■

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo

Myanmar farmers gain knowledge on laser levelling

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) funded project, Closing the Rice Yield Gap with Reduced Environmental Footprint project (CORIGAP), conducted a basic operator’s training and demonstration of laser-assisted land levelling technology in Letpadan, Bago Region Myanmar. More than 80 farmers were given first hand experience in using laser land levelling technology

LEVELLING rice fields reduces the amount of water used for land preparation and irrigation, improves the application of agronomic inputs such as fertilisers and herbicides, and increases grain yield and quality. According to research in Cambodia, land levelling has increased yield by 24 per cent per hectare.

According to Carlito Balingbing, one of IRRI’s postharvest and mechanisation engineers, “laser-assisted land levelling is a precision technology in agriculture that ensures efficient and accurate levelling of farmers’ fields. It enables uniform distribution of irrigation water and agronomic inputs, which in turn provides better yields and higher income to farmers.”

One of the activity’s highlights is setting up the laser technology system on a tractor. To fully demonstrate, participants needed a proper-sized tractor that has the optimum horsepower to move the scraper bucket around the field. Village leader U Naing Tun volunteered his equipment for the demonstration.

Balingbing, together with Yan Lin Aung, also gave an orientation on basic tractor operation and laser levelling equipment troubleshooting. During the session, the engineers explained about the cost of setting up the system and instructed the attendees on when it would be best to do field levelling. The knowledge shared with the stakeholders will help them maintain full use of the technology and sustain it for optimal field levelling.

Trainees have expressed their appreciation for this initiative. U Kyaw Min, Senator of Letpandan, said, “farming technologies (in Myanmar) are already outdated compared to other countries. It is important that we take advantage of this technology that is tested by researchers, so that work in the field will become easier and faster for farmers. Through this, we can develop our agricultural industry and export our crops to other countries.” FAR EASTERN AGRICULTURE ■



Levelling rice fields reduces the amount of water used in cultivation. (Image source: VALERIANO SERRANO/Pixabay)

At least five dead in attack on Kabul's Intercontinental Hotel

KABUL — Gunmen dressed in army uniforms who stormed Kabul's Intercontinental Hotel battled Afghan Special Forces for 13 hours in an overnight siege that left at least five people dead, officials and witnesses said on Sunday.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which saw more than 150 guests flee, with some shimmying down tied-together sheets from upper-floor windows and others rescued by Afghan forces.

Abdul Rahman Naseri, a guest who was at the hotel for a conference, was in the hall of the hotel when he saw four insurgents dressed in army uniforms.

"They were shouting in Pashto (language), 'Don't leave any of them alive, good or bad. Shoot and kill them all,' one of them shouted," Naseri said.

"I ran to my room on the second floor. I opened the window and tried to get out using a tree but the branch broke and I fell to the ground. I hurt my back and broke a leg."

Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said the siege ended on Sunday when the last gunman was shot dead. Even after officials said the attack was over, sporadic gunshots and explosions could be heard from the site.

It is unclear exactly how many gunmen were involved. Danish said three gunmen were killed, while witnesses said four were involved and the Taliban said five. At least five other people were killed and six wounded, a lower casualty total than earlier feared, while 153 people, including 41 foreigners were evacuated, said Danish. The raid was the latest in a long series of at-

tacks which have underlined the city's precarious situation and the ability of militants to mount high profile operations aimed at undermining confidence in the Western-backed government.

As day broke on Sunday, thick clouds of black smoke could be seen pouring from the building. Several armored US military vehicles with heavy machine guns could be seen close to the hotel along with Afghan police units.

Hotel manager Ahmad Haris Nayab, who escaped unhurt, said the attackers had got into the main part of the hotel through a kitchen before going through the hotel, with many guests trapped in their rooms.

"When the sixth floor caught fire this morning, my roommate told me, either burn or escape," said Mohammad Musa, who was hiding in his room on the top floor



Smoke rises from the Intercontinental Hotel during an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 21 January 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

when he heard gunfire. "I got a bed sheet and tied it to the balcony. I tried to come down but I was heavy and my arms were not strong enough. I fell down and injured my shoulder and leg."

The raid came just days after a US embassy warning of possible attacks on hotels in Kabul.

The Intercontinental Hotel, an imposing 1960s structure set on a hilltop and heavily protected

like most public buildings in Kabul, was previously attacked by Taliban fighters in 2011.

It is one of two main luxury hotels in the city and had been due to host an information technology conference on Sunday. More than 100 IT managers and engineers were on site when the attack took place, Ahmad Waheed, an official at the telecommunications ministry, said. —Reuters ■

Women's March movement sweeps across North America's major cities

BEIJING — Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets in North American cities over the weekend in this year's Women's March to fight for women's empowerment and their legitimate rights.

In the US capital of Washington DC, the Women's March returned Saturday as a sequel to

last year's rally under the same name hitting all major US cities on 21 January, 2017, the day after US President Donald Trump's inauguration ceremony.

Thousands of demonstrators gathered at the Lincoln Memorial before noon, holding placards denouncing Trump's policies and calling for gender equality.

"It's just so important for all the people to show support for all the people that are just trying to defend our rights... we have an administration that looks like it's really adamant about rolling back people's civil rights now more than ever before," a protester named Janel Fersythe told Xinhua. —Xinhua ■



Protesters attend the 2018 Women's March in Chicago, the United States, on 20 January 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

World Bank extends concessional loan assistance of 440 mln USD to Nepal

KATHMANDU — The World Bank agreed to provide 440 million US dollars of concessional loan assistance on Sunday for Nepal's post-earthquake housing reconstruction, livestock innovation, technical education and vocational training.

The World Bank Nepal office said in a statement that the agreements were signed by Nepal's Finance Secretary Shankar Prasad Adhikari and World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan Qimiao Fan in the presence of Nepali Finance Minister Gyandendra Bahadur Karki.

"These three agreements are important for Nepal because they boost job creation by investing more money in the country's successful post-earthquake housing reconstruction as well as providing resources for the livestock sector and for youth skills training," Country Director Fan was quoted as saying in the statement.

Under the first agreement, the World Bank will provide 300 million US dollars in additional finance for the Earthquake Housing Reconstruction Pro-

ject.

From a preliminary estimate of 500,000 households in 2015, the total number of eligible and enrolled beneficiaries has increased to 650,000 households. The government has increased the housing grant to Rs 300,000 per household (about 3,000 U.S. dollars) from the earlier Rs 200,000 (about 2,000 US dollars).

The second financing agreement will support a Livestock Sector Innovation Project with a credit of 80 million US dollars. Nearly 200,000 livestock producers across 271 municipalities will directly benefit from the project. "The project will support the objectives of the government's Agriculture Development Strategy and its emphasis on livestock for sustained agriculture and economic growth, poverty reduction, and improving food and nutrition security," the statement said.

According to the third agreement, the World Bank will finance a second phase of the Enhanced Vocational Education and Training Project with a 60-million-US-dollar credit. —Xinhua ■

Europe readies riposte to Trump's 'America First' push in Davos

DAVOS, Switzerland — European leaders will be out in force at the World Economic Forum in Davos this week to defend multilateralism before US President Donald Trump arrives to deliver his "America First" message.

Politicians, business chiefs, bankers and celebrities will meet in the Swiss Alps under the banner "Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World" for the four-day gathering against an unsettling global backdrop.

A decade after the bankruptcy of U.S. investment bank Lehman Brothers helped trigger a global financial crisis, economic growth has returned and stock markets are hitting record highs.

Yet there is a nagging fear among many in Davos that the brighter economic outlook could turn out to be little more than a mirage if the daunting array of geopolitical threats — from protectionism and climate change to cyber attacks and outright war — gather pace in 2018.

"Not all geopolitical threats are threats to financial markets," Axel Weber, the chairman of Swiss bank UBS and former president of the German Bundesbank told Reuters. "But I agree that



Workers shovel snow from the roof of the congress centre, the venue of the upcoming World Economic Forum (WEF) in the Swiss mountain resort of Davos, Switzerland, on 18 January 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

there may be a disconnect, which has been going on for some time already and may well continue for some time."

The Global Risks Report published by the WEF last week showed that many see a heightened risk of political and economic confrontations between major powers this year.

Trump, the first sitting US president to attend the forum since Bill Clinton in 2000, is a source of much of this anxiety after a volatile first year in office

in which he has turned American foreign policy on its head.

The forum will open on Tuesday with a speech by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and end on Friday, when Trump is due to address the massive auditorium where Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke last year, offering to fill the global leadership void created by an inward-looking Washington.

White House officials said over the weekend that a government shutdown in the United

States was unlikely to prevent Trump from making the trip, although the budget director Mick Mulvaney said it was now "in flux". In the days between Modi and Trump, the leaders of Europe's biggest countries, absent from Davos last year and emboldened by their own economic recovery, will offer an alternative vision to Trump and Xi, who the Europeans say has failed to deliver on his promise of a year ago to open China up to foreign investment. —Reuters ■

Ex-military chief of staff to run in Egyptian presidential election

CAIRO — Former Egyptian armed forces chief of staff General Sami Anan said on Saturday he intended to run in the country's presidential election in March. In a video declaration posted on Anan's official Facebook page, he said he will run for president to save Egypt from incorrect policies and called on state institutions to maintain neutrality toward all candidates.

General-turned-President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi announced late on Friday he would run for a second term. The election is Egypt's third since the 2011 uprising that deposed President Hosni Mubarak. "I call on civilian and military institutions to maintain neutrality towards everyone who had announced their intention to run and not take unconstitutional sides of a president who will leave his post in a few months," Anan said. Anan said in his statement that he had formed his civilian presidential team, which includes Hisham Genena, a former policeman and judge who was appointed to head Egypt's corruption watchdog in 2012 and was sacked by Sisi in 2016. —Reuters ■

Honduran security forces battle protesters as election chaos lingers

TEGUCIGALPA — Honduran soldiers and police clashed with protesters blocking roads across the Central American country on Saturday, as discontent contin-

ues to fester nearly two months after a disputed presidential election.

At least one person died as security forces launched tear

gas against rock-throwing supporters of the center-left Opposition Alliance Against the Dictatorship and tried to clear impromptu roadblocks of burn-

ing tires they had set across the capital Tegucigalpa and around the country, according to police sources and TV images.

Honduras, a poor, violent country that has long sent vulnerable migrants north to the United States, has been embroiled in a political crisis since the Nov. 26 election, which the opposition says was stolen by center-right President Juan Orlando Hernandez. At least 31 people have died in violent protests.

"Out with JOH, out with the dictator," masked protesters shouted in Tegucigalpa's Miraflores neighborhood.

A local NGO said a 60-year-old man died and another person was wounded when military police opened fire on protesters blocking a road in the town of Saba, 210 km (130 miles) north-east of the capital.

A security ministry spokesman told local media that the incident was being investigated.

Twelve people had been arrested across the country, he said, adding that three police officers and a soldier were injured in the protests.

The Honduran electoral tribunal declared Hernandez, a staunch US ally, winner of the election last month despite strident protests over the vote count.

Initially, the vote tally had clearly favored center-left opposition candidate Salvador Nasralla, but it swung in favor of the incumbent after a 36-hour delay.

Hernandez is due to take office on Jan. 27.

"We have to stay in the streets," said former President Manuel Zelaya, who was ousted in a 2009 coup and is one of the opposition leaders.

"If they move us from one spot, we have to move to another. We need to be permanently mobilized to keep up the pressure and prevent the dictator from installing himself." —Reuters ■



A riot policeman kicks a tear gas canister to demonstrators, during a protest against the re-election of Honduras' President Juan Orlando Hernandez in Tegucigalpa Honduras, on 20 January 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pope urges hope in visit to Peru area devastated by floods

TRUJILLO, (Peru) — Pope Francis, visiting an area of Peru that was devastated last year by heavy rains linked to climate change and plagued by gang violence, urged people not to lose hope.

On his penultimate day in Peru, Francis flew north to the this city near the Pacific Ocean to say Mass for about 200,000 people on the beach at the nearby ocean-side town of Huanchaco.

“Peruvians today do not have the right to lose hope,” he said in improvised comments in his homily to the vast crowd from his vantage point on a huge altar overlooking the Pacific.

Trujillo, capital of the region of La Libertad, was hit by major floods after six landslides in less than a week at the beginning of



Pope Francis celebrates a mass at Huanchaco beach in Trujillo, Peru, on 20 January 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

2017, leaving tens of thousands of people homeless. The vast majority of people affected were poor.

The disaster was caused by

the climatic phenomenon called Niño Costero, a warming of surface waters on the Pacific Ocean that generates intense rains on

the coast of South America. Scientists have said climate change will make El Niños more frequent and intense.

“You know the power of nature, you have experienced its force,” Francis said. “You had to face the brunt of the ‘Niño Costero’ whose painful consequences are still present in so many families, especially those who are not yet able to rebuild their homes”.

Apocalyptic scenes recorded on cellphones and shared on social media broadened the sense of chaos. Bridges collapsed as rivers breached their banks and cows and pigs turned up on beaches after being carried away by rivers. Francis, who has often warned about the effects that climate change has on the

poor, wrote a major document in 2015 on the need to protect the environment in which he backed scientists who say climate change is at least partially caused by the burning of fossil fuels.

Throughout Peru, an unusually brutal rainy season last year killed at least 162 people, slowed economic growth sharply and caused damage equivalent to 2 per cent of Peru’s gross domestic product. The cost of rebuilding damaged infrastructure was expected to be about \$8 billion.

In his homily, Francis also mentioned increasing violence in the Trujillo area, where there have been hundreds of murders related to drug trafficking. —Reuters ■

Seoul says North Korea’s Olympic participation will aid peace and ease tensions

SEOUL — Seoul welcomed confirmation by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that 22 North Korean athletes would compete in next month’s Winter Olympics, saying on Sunday it would aid peace and the easing of tensions on the Korean peninsula.

In the first of a series of preparatory visits, North Korean music and arts officials arrived in South Korea on Sunday to inspect sites for performances during the Olympics.

“North Korea’s participation in the Olympics will be a catalyst for building peace and easing tensions on the Korean peninsula,” said South Korea’s presidential Blue House in a statement released on Sunday.

The visit to the South marks the first by North Koreans since South Korean President Moon Jae-in took office in May last year and sought to re-engage with the North.

“President Moon has previously stressed that the Pyeongchang Olympics should be an important turning point in solving North Korea’s missile issues,” the Blue House statement said. The seven-member North Korean delegation, led by musician Hyon Song-wol, will check venues for performances

by a 140-strong art troupe at the Olympics.

The officials are scheduled to spend two days inspecting art centers in Seoul and Gangneung city, which will also host several of the Olympic events.

South Korean broadcaster YTN reported the delegation had arrived in Seoul early Sunday under a heavy police presence, then boarded a train to Gangwon province, where the Olympics will be held from 9-25 February. Pyongyang said on Sunday it also plans to send another team of sports officials to inspect Olympic venues and accommodations from 25-27 January, South Korea’s unification ministry said. In a diplomatic breakthrough after a year of escalating tension over the North’s nuclear and missile program, the IOC announced on Saturday that North Korea will send 22 athletes to the Winter Games and compete in three sports and five disciplines.

Until the IOC confirmation, a figure skating pair were the only North Koreans to have secured a spot at the Games through the conventional qualifying competition, although they lost their place after failing to register.—Reuters ■

Two dead, several hurt in Prague hotel fire



Photo: Reuters

PRAGUE — Two people died and nine were injured in a fire at a hotel in the center of Prague on Saturday night, fire and rescue officials said. The fire occurred at Eurostars David Hotel, a block away from the Vltava River and near the Czech capital’s National Theatre.

Of those hurt, five people were seriously injured, the Prague Emergency Medical Service said. “Unfortunately we were not able to help two people,” the EMS said on its Twitter.

No other details on the victims were given.

Seznam Zpravy news web-

site reported the hotel has 152 beds.

Rescue officials had earlier said 40 were injured, although Czech media reported that most were treated for smoke inhalation on the spot and not taken to hospital. The cause of the fire was not clear.—Reuters ■

Germany faces risks, higher costs without focus on green finance

BERLIN — Germany faces growing risks and high costs if it does not revamp its financial system to focus more on climate change and sustainability, according to a new report by the World Wildlife Fund and finance groups including Deutsche Boerse.

The study faulted German conservatives and Social Democrats, who are considering renewing the ‘grand coalition’ that has ruled Europe’s largest economy since 2013, for failing to even address ‘green finance’ in their blueprint for a new government.

“This is not about adding a green brick to the financial tool kit. It’s about the fundamental climate and environmental compatibility of all financial structures and finance flows,” said Joerg-Andreas Krueger, a top WWF official in Germany.—Reuters ■

India restricts use of imported petcoke in Delhi region

NEW DELHI — India’s environment ministry has placed restrictions on the use of imported petroleum coke in the capital Delhi and its surrounding re-

gion, in the latest effort to curb rising air pollution. As the world’s largest consumer of petcoke, India imports over half its annual petcoke consumption

of about 27 million tonnes, mainly from the United States. Local producers include Indian Oil Corp, Reliance Industries and Bharat Petroleum Corp.

“Only consented and registered industrial units of NCR States shall be permitted to directly import pet coke and consignment shall be in the name of user industrial units for their own use,” the ministry of environment, forest and climate change said in a notification issued late on Friday.

Cement plants and other industries approved to use petcoke in the region would also need to obtain permission from the state pollution control board to continue operations, it said.

The ministry has also banned imports of petroleum coke for trading purposes in the capital region, the notice said, adding that even industrial units allowed to use petcoke will not be allowed

to store more than three months worth of their consumption.

India will also track the trade of the commodity, and has asked both sellers and consumers to submit monthly reports on petcoke-related transactions.

India is the world’s biggest consumer of petroleum coke, which is a dark solid carbon material that emits 11 percent more greenhouse gases than coal, according to the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy.

India’s government is in favor of imposing a wider ban on the import of petcoke, according to a government affidavit filed with its top court in December, a ruling on which is expected next month. —Reuters ■



A man walks along a road on a smoggy winter morning in New Delhi, on 21 December 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Senate should change rules if shutdown stalemate continues — Trump

WASHINGTON — US President Trump said on Twitter Sunday that if the government shutdown stalemate continued, Republicans should fund the government by changing Senate rules - which currently require a super-majority for appropriations bills to pass.

“The Dems (Dem-

ocrats) just want illegal immigrants to pour into our nation unchecked. If stalemate continues, Republicans should go to 51 percent (Nuclear Option) and vote on real, long term budget,” Trump wrote on Twitter.

Funding for federal agencies ran out Saturday with Trump and Republican lawmakers

locked in a standoff with Democrats. Republicans, who have a slim Senate majority, said they would not negotiate on immigration until the government was reopened. Democrats say short-term spending legislation must include protections for young undocumented immigrants known as “Dreamers.” —Reuters ■



A traffic light shines red after President Donald Trump and the US Congress failed to reach a deal on funding for federal agencies in Washington, US, on 20 January 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

Audi ordered to recall 127,000 vehicles over emissions: paper

FRANKFURT — Germany’s KBA automotive watchdog has detected illicit emission-control software in Audi’s latest Euro-6 diesel models and has ordered a recall of 127,000 vehicles, Bild am Sonntag reported.

Audi, a unit of Volkswagen, said in a statement that the models had been included in a voluntary recall of 850,000 diesel vehicles with V6 and V8 TDI engines announced in July.

“The engine control software for the vehicles in question will be completely revised, tested and submitted to the KBA for approval”, Audi said in its statement.

It did not confirm more details of KBA’s request.

Bild am Sonntag said road transport authority KBA had told Audi to respond by 2 February on how it plans to update vehicle software controlling emissions, making sure the cars are unable to illegally manipulate emission controls.

Audi said it has been examining its diesel-fuelled cars for potential irregularities for months in close cooperation with the KBA. —Reuters ■

British PM May says will stop companies abusing pension schemes

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May said she would clamp down on bosses who try to “line their own pockets” while not protecting workers’ pensions, after the collapse of outsourcer Carillion with a 900-million-pound hole in its pension scheme.

Writing in Sunday’s Observer newspaper, the Prime Minister said private companies could help deliver better public services, but the system

needed to be rebalanced in favor of ordinary working people.

“In the spring, we will set out tough new rules for executives who try to line their own pockets by putting their workers’ pensions at risk — an acceptable abuse that we will end,” she said.

Construction and outsourcing services group Carillion was put into liquidation on Monday, swamped by debt and pension liabilities of

at least 2.2 billion pounds (\$3 billion), and forcing the government to step in to guarantee public services from school meals to roadworks.

Its more than a dozen pension schemes, which collectively have 27,500 members are on course to transfer to the lifeboat Pension protection Fund, leaving many members who are below retirement age facing a cut in their pensions. — Reuters ■

Transferring Distributor for Registered Products

Distribution of following (2) pesticides registered by Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore) is transferring from MARGA MIN COMPANY LIMITED to AKA YARZAR COMPANY LIMITED. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within 7 days.

1။ ESPIRE 60EC - အက်(စ်)ပိုင်းရာ: ၆၀ ဒီဇီ 2။ TRAZIN 80WP - ထရာင်း: ၈၀ ဒဗလျူပီ

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Lte Ltd (Myanmar Branch)
(+951) 684 673 (+959)514 5328

The Erawan Agricultural Chemicals Co.,Ltd 15/7 Soi 33 Ladprao Chandrakasem, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand invites objection from all parties within a period of seven (7) days from the publication of this notice, with copies of such documents and other proofs in support of their objections.

No	Commance Name	Trade Name	Reg Type	Reg
1.	Quinclorac 25% w/v SC	Eraclorac 25 SC	P	2015-2351

U Zaw Min Naing (LL.B) High Grade Pleader-Reg No-42805, No.55, 5 floor(B), Bayathoddi street, Pathein Nyunt quarter, Tamwe township, Yangon, Ph: 09-799377691, for Aventine Limited .



Ed Sheeran performs during the 2017 Jingle Ball at Madison Square Garden in New York, US, on 8 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

British singer Ed Sheeran gets engaged to school friend Cherry Seaborn

LONDON—British singer/songwriter Ed Sheeran said on Saturday he is engaged to long-time friend Cherry Seaborn, whom he first met at school at the age of 11.

"Got myself a fiancé just before new year," he wrote on an Instagram photo of him and Seaborn. "We are very happy and in love, and our cats are chuffed as well xx."

Sheeran, 26, and accountant Seaborn, 25, were pupils at the same school in Suffolk, eastern England and began dating in 2015. The ginger-haired Grammy winner has enjoyed a string of hits since his debut album +

(Plus) topped the UK charts in 2011 and reached No. 5 in the United States.

His single "Shape of You" was 2017's biggest selling single in the UK, according to the Official Charts Company, and "Perfect", featuring Beyoncé, was Britain's Christmas No. 1 last year. Seaborn, a keen field-hockey player, studied at Duke University in North Carolina and later worked in the Wall Street financial district of New York before transferring back to England. A date for the wedding has yet to be announced. —Reuters ■

Hollywood producers issue anti-harassment guidelines

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood producers on Friday outlined steps aimed at preventing sexual harassment on and off television and movie sets in a response to revelations of misconduct that have shaken the entertainment industry in recent months.

The voluntary guidelines from the Producers Guild of America (PGA) recommend that all productions provide in-person anti-sexual harassment training for all cast and crew before the start of each season. They also urge producers to conduct meetings and casting sessions in a "professional, safe and comfortable" environment, among other

steps. "As producers, we provide key leadership in creating and sustaining work environments built on mutual respect, so it is our obligation to change our culture and eradicate this abuse," PGA Co-Presidents Gary Lucchesi and Lori McCreary said in a statement. The guidelines are initial recommendations from a task force the PGA created in October after allegations of misconduct against entertainment industry figures including producer Harvey Weinstein, who has been accused by more than 70 women of sexual misconduct, including rape. — Reuters ■

Tom Petty died due to accidental drug overdose: coroner

LOS ANGELES — Rocker Tom Petty died in October due to "multisystem organ failure" brought on by an accidental overdose of seven medications, the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner's office said on Friday.

The coroner's office attributed Petty's death at the age of 66 to a "mixed toxicity" of fentanyl, oxycodone, generic Restoril, generic Xanax, generic Celexa, acetyl fentanyl, and despropionyl fentanyl.

The medical examiner's report lists the manner of death as "accidental."

Petty, whose ringing guitar riffs, distinctive vocals and well-wrought everyman lyrics graced such hits as "Refugee," "Free Fallin'" and "American Girl," was found unconscious at his home in Malibu on Oct. 2 and died at a hospital later that night.

He had been engaged on a 40th anniversary tour of the United States with his band the Heartbreakers at the time and had just played three dates at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles.

"We



Musician Tom Petty arrives for the 2012 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles, on 6 September, 2012. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

knew before the report was shared with us that he was prescribed various pain medications for a multitude of issues including fentanyl patches and we feel confident that this was, as the coroner found, an unfortunate accident," Petty's wife, Dana and daughter, Adria, said in a Facebook post.

Dana and Adria Petty said that the veteran musician was suffering from emphysema, knee problems and most significantly a fractured hip that he was treating with medication so

that he could continue touring.

"On the day he died he was informed his hip had graduated to a full on break and it is our feeling that the pain was simply unbearable and was the cause for his over use of medication," Dana and Adria Petty said.

A 2015 biography of Petty revealed for the first time that he was addicted to heroin in the 1990s.

Petty, who was born in Florida in 1950 and was best known for his roots-infused rock music, carved a career as a solo artist as well as with his band the Heartbreakers and as part of supergroup the Traveling Wilburys.

He and the band were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2002, when they were described by organizers as "the quintessential American individualists," capturing the voice of the American everyman.

The man considered by many to be rock music's greatest songwriter, Bob Dylan, called Petty's death "shocking, crushing news" in a statement to Rolling Stone magazine at the time. —Reuters ■



Kim Kardashian names new baby girl Chicago

Kim Kardashian's new baby daughter with rapper husband Kanye West has been named Chicago, the reality star announced on her app on Friday.

The baby girl was born to a surrogate on Monday, a third child for the celebrity couple.

Kardashian revealed the name, without explanation, in a simple update to the birth announcement she made ear-

lier this week.

West, 40, was born in Atlanta and raised in Chicago.

Kardashian, 37, and West are already parents to North, 4, and Saint, 2.

The "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" reality and social media star has said she decided to use a surrogate after doctors warned of serious health risks if she became pregnant again. —Reuters ■

Kim Kardashian. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Famous poet and author Nyi Minn Nyo. PHOTO:YE HTUT TIN (DAWBON)

Dawbon Literary Lovers Hold Literary Talk for 3rd Time

With a view to admiring and reading Myanmar literature among youths, a literary talk was held for the third time at Yamonnar 1st Quarter of Dawbon township, Yangon Region on 20th January, under the sponsorship of the association of literary lovers, Dawbon.

At the ceremony, writer Naung Kyaw made an opening address, with writers Sayar Nyi Minn Nyo making a talk under the title of “the Union of Myanmar in future,”, writer

Sayar Chit Oo Nyo under the title of “words of gift, letters of gift,” and Sayarma Juu under the title of “the book I read yesterday,” respectively.

The literary talk was held with the intention of making youths admire Myanmar language and literature, thence peruse books, developing their intellectual and spiritual strength acquired from reading so that they can be applied in distinguishing the right and the wrong, and helping the national

development and strengthening the democratic system being exercised by the State through their built-up capacities, for making youths participate in the tasks of bringing about success of the national economy and safeguarding the national interest, learning to cultivate the practices of responsibility and accountability and joining the tasks of implementation of bringing about the national reconciliation, it was learnt.

—Ye Htut Tin (Dawbon) ■

Drug and Alcohol Facts Week, a youth-led drug awareness campaign

THE opening ceremony of Drug and Alcohol Facts Week was organized on 21st January at Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

Dr Kay Thi Kyaw, Director of Department of Social Welfare (DSW), Yangon Region, delivered an opening address. She mentioned that youth and drug is one of the thematic areas in national youth policy which was recently launched, and briefly explained about the services provided DSW for rehabilitation and reintegration of people who used drugs. She also appreciated the lead organizers of this drug awareness campaign, which are AHEAD, Teens and Dreams and AMN Generation and encouraged youth participation in development of the nation.

Then Ko Khum Hein Htet Soe (AHEAD) and Ma Than Zin San (Teens and Dreams) presented about their efforts for this campaign and the activities they are going to do in this week. Then the invited guests and youth volunteers change the profile picture frame used in social media campaign for prevention of drug use.

Drug and Alcohol Facts week will be done from 22nd to 28th of this month in four largest cities: Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Mawlamyaing. Early this month, 230 youth volunteers have been trained to provide drug education session in schools and this campaign will reach 80,000 children.—Myanmar News Agency ■



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Screen Actors Guild awards is all about women

LOS ANGELES — Women and their stories are likely to dominate the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) awards on Sunday in the second big Hollywood ceremony this year that aims to transform the sexual misconduct scandal sweeping the United States into a celebration of female empowerment.

The annual show in Los Angeles, celebrating acting achievements in film and television, will be a female-powered affair, with women presenting all 13 of the awards. The gala dinner will also be hosted by a woman - Kristen Bell, star of “The Good Place” TV comedy — and films by and about women are expected to fare well.

“We are acknowledging the year of the woman,” said Kathy Connell, executive director of the ceremony, which takes place a day after hundreds of thousands of women turned out for marches throughout the United States.



A scale model of the stage is pictured during a media opportunity in preparations for the 24th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California, US, on 18 January 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

Accusations of sexual misconduct have forced dozens of powerful men in Hollywood and beyond to step down, be fired or dropped from creative projects.

James Franco and Aziz Ansari, both under the spotlight because of accusations of impropriety, were seen as front-runners for SAG awards two weeks ago,

but it was not clear whether they will attend Sunday’s ceremony.

Franco, a best actor nominee for A24 studio’s indie cult comedy homage “The Disaster Artist,”

has kept a low profile since he said allegations against him by five women were “not accurate.”

Ansari, thought to be a front-runner for his Netflix comedy series “Master of None,” made headlines after a woman described feeling violated following an awkward date last year. Ansari said he believed their sexual activity was consensual. While women are not expected to turn out dressed in black en masse for the SAG awards, as they did at the 7 January Golden Globes, many of the movies and TV shows up for honors have strong female points of view. Fox Searchlight’s dark comedy “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,” about a furious woman seeking vengeance on male law enforcement officers for the rape and murder of her daughter, has a leading four nods, including the top prize of best cast ensemble.—Reuters ■

Host Ayeyawady ties Southern in MPT Myanmar National League

AYEYAWADY United played a 2-2 draw game at Patheingyi Stadium, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday as a Week-2 matches of MPT Myanmar National League 2018.

Both teams used their main players in the match.

From the kick-off, Ayeyawady FC played forcefully with their speedy strikers but Southern Myanmar FC's had prepared their defense well and the offensive assault did no work in the early minutes of the match.

Although Ayeyawady gained a penalty shoot at the 17 minutes mark, Southern Myanmar's Keeper could block the ball well and Ayeyawady lost their opportunity to gain the opening goal.

The penalty was kicked by Ayeyawady United's striker Cassio Horta Maga Lhaes.

Nevertheless, Cassio Horta Maga Lhaes broke the silence for Ayeyawady United.

He scored the opening goal at the 27 minute mark over the mistakes made by the defense line of the opponents.

But at the 29 minute, Wil-



Ayeyawady (red) and Southern Myanmar (white) engage in fierce combat. **PHOTO: MNL**

liam from Southern Myanmar touched the ball into the net to equalize the scores.

However one minute later, Southern Myanmar also earned by the error of the Ayeyawady

defense. The goal was solidly an own goal, entering into the goal net with touching the Ayeyawady defender.

The second half seems more exciting to watch the

match. Ayeyawady gained the equalizing goal at 51 minute.

The last minutes resulted in no goals as players from both teams seem to be exhausted.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Ceremony to honour Myanmar Golf Stars in Yangon

WITH the supervision of Myanmar Golf Federation and sponsored by Phyo Si Thu Teak Plantation (Myanmar) & Bago Yoma Resort (Myanmar), a ceremony to honour Myanmar Golf Stars including Hein Si Thu who won the first prize in World Junior Golf Series 2017 American Junior Competition was hosted at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel yesterday.

Officials from Myanmar Golf Federation, Departmental Officials from Sports and Education Department and invitees also attended the ceremony. Hein Si Thu a Myanmar golf star, who had secured the first prize in the World Junior Golf Series- 2017 American Junior Tournament, the ninth position winner Phue Pwint Yati Khaing, the 29th position winner Kaung Myat Kyaw, the 31st position winner Phyo Zan, the 32nd position winner Min Than Lwin Aung were given the honour of prizes and with the sponsor recognizing to Myanmar Professional Golf player Ye Htet Aung. The officials then presented souvenirs to the shining golf players.—Kyawzin Lin ■

Yoma Yangon International Marathon 2018 held in Myanmar

MYANMAR'S biggest Marathon event, the Yoma Yangon International Marathon (YYIM), was held for the 6th year yesterday morning in Yangon.

The marathon event continues to grow in participation year-on-year, with a record number of over 9,000 runners taking part across four different categories – 42km Full Marathon, 21km Half Marathon, 10km Challenge and 3km Fun Run/Walk.

Jointly organised by Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd, First Myanmar Investment Company Limited (FMI) and Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), the event has become one of the most popular in Myanmar.

Runners were filled with eagerness as they took to the streets for the marathon and were encouraged on by the public across Yangon, as well as at the start and finish line at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium.



Participants of the Yoma Yangon International Marathon 2018 charge out the gate just before sunrise. **PHOTO: YOMA STRATEGIC HOLDINGS LTD.**

The first of the four race categories, the 42km Full Marathon, was flagged off at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium at 5am by the officials.

In the men's Full Marathon, Elijah Mbogo Mwaniki from

Kenya won first with 2 hours 19 minutes 27 seconds. Trailing close behind in second was Peter Kipleting Keter with 2 hours 19 minutes 55 seconds while Lukas Muteti from Kenya secured third with 2 hours 31 minutes 21 sec-

onds.

In the women's Full Marathon, Margaret Njuguna from Kenya took home the title after clocking 2 hours 51 minutes 11 seconds to clinch gold.

In the women's Full Mara-

thon, Margaret Njuguna from Kenya took home the title after clocking 2 hours 51 minutes 11 seconds to clinch gold.

Finishing behind her Edinah Koech from Kenya won in second place and Valentine Jepkemoi Serem from Kenya gained third.

In the Men's Half Marathon Challenge, Joseph Mwangi Ngare from Kenya came in first place with a time of 1 hour 10 minutes 32 seconds

The Women's Half Marathon saw Julia Njari from Kenya finish first with a time of 1 hour 17 minutes 35 seconds.

In the Men's 10km Challenge, Peter Ndolo from Kenya led the field and claimed first place with a time of 30 minutes 44 seconds to earn the US\$800 prize money. Grace Njenga from Kenya came in first in the Women's 10km Challenge, recording a time of 40 minutes 11 second.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■