

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Message of Greetings from President U Htin Kyaw
to the 71st Anniversary Celebrations of Union Day
PAGE-3

INTERVIEW

Plans underway for
development of National
Landmark Garden
PAGE-2

**NATIONAL**

MyTel launches
First Call
in Nay Pyi Taw
PAGE-15

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Honouring the 71st Anniversary Union Day



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP at Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor, Boris Johnson holds talk over latest development in Rakhine

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United

Kingdom (UK), at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters pertaining to the latest develop-

ments in Rakhine State, including the repatriation process. In the afternoon, Mr. Johnson and Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief

and Resettlement, travelled to Sittway in a special plane and were welcomed by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu.

SEE PAGE-6

Gov't seeks advice from entrepreneurs before enactment of 2018 Union Tax Law

By May Thet Hnin

Government officials held a discussion with entrepreneurs for two days to seek their advice before enacting the 2018 Union Taxation Law.

The meeting was held at the headquarters of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) during the second weekend of this month, with an aim to make the tax law more productive.

Regional authorities, the tax working group of the UMFCCI, officials from the Internal Revenue Department and private entrepreneurs gathered at the meeting to give their suggestions on income tax, commercial tax and special goods tax.

The government is seeking advice from the entrepreneurs to avoid possible disputes that may occur after the enactment of the law.

SEE PAGE-15



'BEST BANK IN MYANMAR'

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

Civil servants spend holiday learning of ethnicities

By Min Min Zaw,
Mi Mi Phyo
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

We interviewed people from civil society on how they spent their 3-day holiday.

U Soe Naing (General Manager of National Landmarks Garden)

A lot of ethnic people come and visit the place. There are around 900-1,000 visitors and there are so many things to see here. On public holidays like these, we cut the ticket price in half for visitors and they can see the entire nation's wonders in one place.

U Shedi (Vice Chairman of Lahu Traditional Literature and Culture Association)

My team and I are here to perform at the National Cease-fire Agreement signing event. While we're here we decided to visit the National Landmark Garden. It's a delightful place and I want the people back in my hometown to come visit too.

Ma Zin Maing Aung (From Myitkyina, Kachin State)

I'm here to attend the Union Day event and I decided to come with my team to the National Landmark Garden to meet with all the ethnic groups



Day care centre children and teachers from the Department of Agricultural Research enjoy their public holiday discovering the different ethnicities of Myanmar. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**



U Soe Naing



U Shedi



Ma Zin Maing Aung

here. We discovered a lot of things about other ethnicities and we had frank discussions with most of them. Most people don't venture out from their region or state so they don't know much about other ethnic people's way of life. I think it would be a good idea for all of

them to come to this park in Nay Pyi Taw.

Daw Aye Aye Cho (Department of Agricultural Research)

I'm a Day care centre teacher from the Department of Agricultural Research. I came

to the National Landmarks Garden with my students to show them how different ethnicities live. The kids are refreshed after having a day off like this. I want to advise other Day care centre schools to bring their students out to places like these on public holidays.

Daw Le Le Mon (Civil Servant of Department of Agricultural Research)

I'm a civil servant from Department of Agricultural Research. As we've got the three-day holidays, our family can smell the flowers. I'm so pleased to have such a time in my life. As my husband and my daughter also had their holidays, we can spend our vacations together, so do my friends' families.

Mg Thuta Kyaw (Student of Day care centre of Department of Agricultural Research)

I came from my school, Day care centre of Department of Agricultural Research. I am very happy to come here with my dad and mom and teachers. My friends also came along with me.

I have already visited many interested places in the village. In the future, I will also come here whenever I have these kinds of holidays.

Ma Thin Yu Lwin (Lwin convenience shop)

As usual, our shop sells to some extent. But for now we can sell a lot as a lot of people came here. We want to request more of these events. ■

Plans underway for development of National Landmarks Garden

THE eighth anniversary of the National Landmark Garden was celebrated at the garden in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the celebration, performers from the Department of Arts, operating under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, entertained the visitors with performances, while Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan ethnic people also performed traditional dances.

Fun activities, games and competitions, dinner and lucky draw programmes were also hosted for the staff working at the National Landmarks Garden.

"The National Landmarks Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) has mock-up buildings of significant

landmarks in each state and division in the Union of Myanmar. Therefore, visitors can relax and obtain general knowledge, while enjoying the typical style of living of the national races living in the states and divisions during their visit," said U Soe Naing, General Manager of the National Landmarks Garden.

Local visitors are charged Ks1,000 for an adult and Ks500 for a child as entry fees, whereas it is US\$10 for an adult and \$5 for a child for foreign visitors.

"On an average, nearly 900 to 1,000 people visit the garden daily. More visitors are seen during holidays and vacations. Entry is free for monks, nuns, novices and children under five. Discounts are also provided to group visitors," said U Soe Naing.

"We are going to develop the National Landmark Garden by displaying the cultural heritage, customs, living styles and natural locales of the ethnic people in Myanmar to draw foreign and local visitors," he added. The National Landmarks Garden is located at 1 mile east of Milestone No.257/2 on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway, Nay Pyi Taw, and is situated next to the Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden.

The National Landmarks Garden was opened on 11 February 2010 to provide a place for recreation and relaxation to the public, as well as to provide general knowledge on the typical living style of the national races of the states and divisions in a single visit. —Kyaw Thu Htet



Traditional dancers from multiple ethnicities perform at the National Landmarks Garden's 8th Anniversary. **PHOTO: MNA**



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Message of Greetings from President U Htin Kyaw to the 71st Anniversary Celebrations of Union Day

Dear esteemed ethnic national brothers and sisters,

Today is a truly auspicious occasion of the 71st Anniversary of Union Day.

On this truly auspicious day, I send my Message of Greetings and good wishes for the auspiciousness of all ethnic national brothers and sisters who have lived together in friendship in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar since time immemorial.

Throughout the history of Myanmar, the long line of kings who ruled the country strived to build a strong union based on national unity. However, at the end of the Konbaung period, our country fell under British colonial rule and due to their divide and rule tactics our ethnic national brothers and sisters lost their unity based on suspicions among themselves.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw led by General Aung San drove out the British colonialists with the help of the Japanese. Soon after we realized the true nature of Japanese fascism and fake independence we had to drive out the Japanese hand in hand with the Allies with the aim of regaining our independence and sovereignty.

Due to the efforts of Myanmar national leaders and the Myanmar people, we were able to sign the Aung San-Atlee Agreement which promised to give independence to Burma within one year; among other things on the 27th January 1947. According to this agreement,

although the British imperialists had to give independence to the whole of Burma, they wanted to leave behind the mountainous regions.

Ethnic national leaders including General Aung San convened the Panglong conference to make a united demand that independence be given to the central plains as well as the mountainous regions at the same time. Thus on 12 February 1947, they were able to sign the agreement. This is the reason why we have designated this day as the Union Day, the day the Panglong Agreement was signed, the day on which we demanded in unity and in one voice independence for the whole country, as a historic milestone.

All Myanmar ethnic national brothers and sisters should value and hold in high regard this Union spirit through which all ethnic nationals were able to achieve independence together in unity. It is also very important to keep this Union spirit alive and strong and to nurture and value this spirit as our own lives.

Although it is true that beginning from the time we gained independence, internal armed conflicts have lingered on up till now, we have shown our ability to exist as an independent and sovereign nation with union spirit and the unity of our ethnic nationals; it is now 71 years.

Furthermore, we are now striving, having discussions and seeking solutions for the cessation of all internal armed conflicts and to establish firmly a Dem-

ocratic Federal Republic in accordance with the aspirations and desires of ethnic national brothers and sisters. We have chosen the path of seeking solutions through negotiations and political dialogues; the various steps of the peace process and the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong are being conducted, as of now we have agreement on 37 Federal principles which have been signed as Part 1 of the Union Accord.

I believe that by negotiating and seeking solutions based on Union spirit, we would be able to achieve not only a more durable internal unity but also establish the Democratic Federal Republic successfully from the platform of the 21st Century Panglong.

If our Union spirit is weak, we would be far away from the establishment of a Democratic Federal Republic. The main ingredient needed for internal peace is mutual trust among the ethnic national brothers and sisters. That is why ethnic national brothers and sisters need to strive based on union spirit with unqualified trust, unity which is firm and determination which is resolute and continue the process of negotiations and seeking solutions.

At the same time, we need to have firm economic foundations so that there will be continuous development of the motherland in all sectors such as political, economic and social sectors. That is why the Union government has been striving continuously for the develop-

ment of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) which constitute a large percentage of the country's economy.

As we work for the achievement of national unity, national reconciliation and the peace process which all Union citizens and ethnic national brothers and sisters, deeply desire and yearn for, we need the Union Government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw, the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAO's), the Political parties, the CBO's – Community Based Organizations and the entire People to cooperate, participate and work together hand-in-hand.

Therefore, on this auspiciousness day, the 71st Anniversary of Union Day, I remind and urge all Union citizens and ethnic nationals to solemnly adopt with resolute determination and participate and cooperate in the implementation of the following four Union Day Objectives: -

- Perpetuation and awareness of Union spirit.
 - To build internal peace successfully with the unity of ethnic nationals.
 - To build a Democratic Federal Republic through the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong.
 - To ensure the economic development of the entire Union by encouraging Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME's)
- (Unofficial Translation)

Poem recitation held to mark 109th birthday of National Poet Min Thu Wun

Poem recitation and Literary Talks were held in remembrance of the late National Poet and Literary Icon Sayargyi Min Thu Wun in Yangon yesterday.

The celebration marking the 109th birthday of Sayargyi Min Thu Wun was held on the fifth floor of Than Zay Market in Lamadaw Township, Yangon.

The ceremony was organized by Yangon Book Plaza and 30 students from Basic Education High School, Pabedan Township, Yangon participated.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said, "Sayargyi had made brilliant literary achievements in his fields. We gave him credit for his efforts in Myanmar literature. He also performed his duties conscientiously in the democratization process. All his achievements still remain in our hearts."

He has popularized khit-san, the first wave of Myanmar Modernism, and he opened the new chapter of Myan-

mar's Literature.

His collections of famous poems for children are perfect for recitation or reading. These poems for kids will give them a love of poetry from a young age. "

In his lifetime as a poet and writer, Min Thu Wun composed many poems and children's songs.

U Nyan Soe, the eldest son of Poet Min Thu Wun then expressed his thanks and the literary committee of 2007 donated the amount of Ks 100 lakhs to Min Thu Wun's Foundation in order to buy computers, tables, chairs and others. U Nyan Soe received the donation.

After that, Sayargyi Maung Khin Min (Danubyu), Saya Maung Moe Thu and Poet Maung Thwe Thit expressed words of remembrance and Sayama Ma Thida (Sanchaung), Sayama May Zun Aye, Sayama Ma Ei and Poet Saw Wai recited the poems together.

Next, Bookaholics Group conducted a review of the novel "Bagyi Aung lied to



School children participate in poem recitation and literary talks to mark the 109th birthday of Sayargyi Min Thu Wun in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

me" holding on different point of views.

Sayama Daw Saw Nan Khaing, a teacher from No. (2) Basic Education High School said, "Children will be at-

tracted to literacy when we hold this kind of festival." They can read a variety of book at the Yangon Book Plaza. —Zaw Gyi ■

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Ethnic entrepreneurs' association to be established soon

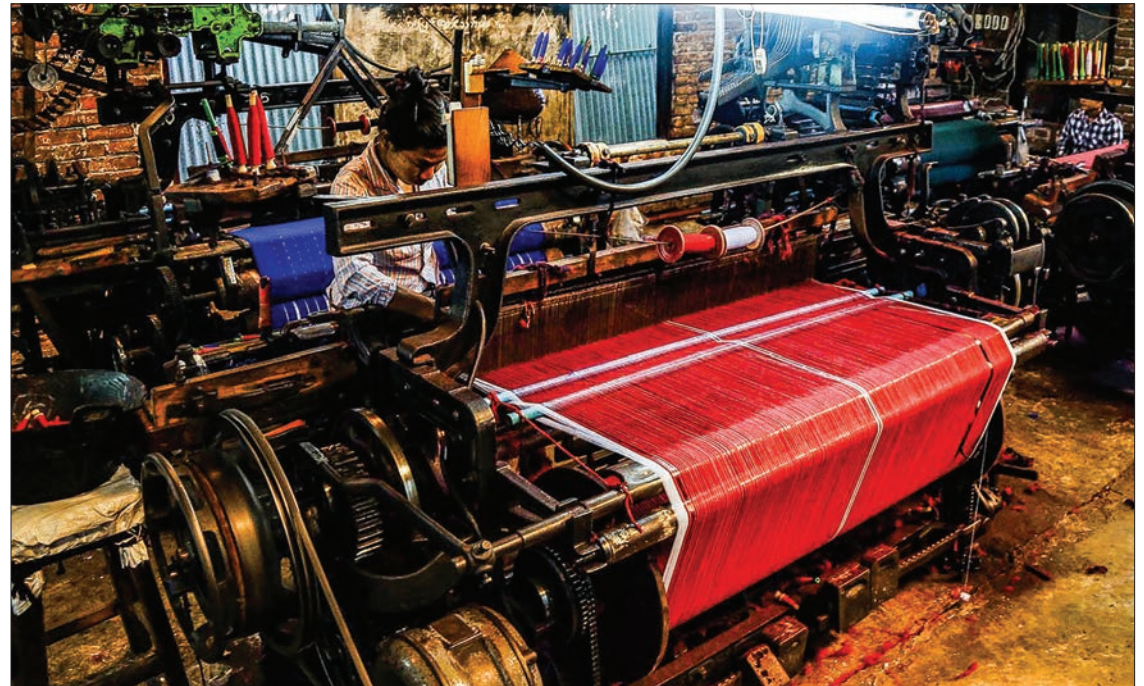
May Thet Hnin

ETHNIC entrepreneurs across Myanmar are planning to establish a new business association, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The new association will represent entrepreneurs in regions lagging behind in development. The formation of the ethnic entrepreneurs' association is aimed at promoting balanced development between urban and rural areas, and ensuring private sector development.

U Aye Win, joint general secretary of the UMFC-CI, said the new association would officially be formed within a month.

He made the announcement at a recent ceremony held on 8 February in Yangon to confer an honourable certificate by the Ethnic Affairs



Employees monitoring weaving machine in Meiktila, Mandalay Region. PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)

Ministry on the UMFCCI for successfully holding an ethnic sustainable development forum in Nay Pyi Taw last month.

Dr Aung Tun Thet, advisor of UMFCCI, said, "It is important to establish an economic pattern that helps support the conser-

vation of environment, protection of human rights and opposition of corruption in regions where majority of ethnics are residing."

All ethnic entrepreneurs from the regions and states have been invited to participate in the

national association for private sector development.

The UMFCCI has pledged to support the establishment of an ethnic entrepreneurs' association and form brother associations in different regions and ethnic groups in the future. ■

Traditional crafts at Shwe Sar Yan Pagoda Festival

AS the Shwe Sar Yan pagoda festival is drawing closer, palm leaf craft makers are producing a lot of palm leaf necklaces and fish toys so everyone can have a chance to buy them.

The palm leaf necklaces and fish toys are the most popular souvenirs at the annual pagoda festival that is held for nine days.

The festival starts on the full moon day of Tabaung, the

12th and final month of the Myanmar calendar year, and this year it will be on March 1, Thursday.

It is one of the biggest pagoda festivals in the Mandalay Region, and people throughout Myanmar visit the ancient pagoda. Vendors sell not only palm leaf crafts but also dried bottle gourd and traditional Shan snacks at the festival.

Every festival goer buys

palm leaf based artwork, mostly necklaces and fish toys as souvenirs for friends because they are major icons of the festival. The fish toys represent the actual fish that appear at the pagoda around this time of year.

People from Nyaung Shwe Nyaung Chat village in Kyaukse Township are making palm necklaces and fish toys only for the festival. It is a traditional business which has been practiced

since their ancestors' time.

They use fresh leaves of toddy palm trees. Even children can make palm necklaces in the village.

They sell their products to wholesalers. But some villagers make the crafts for the wholesalers to sell. Finally, the wholesalers dye the products they bought to sell at the pagoda festival as colourful palm crafts. —Myanmar Digital News ■

Coconut craft making training course in Myeik

THIRTY people in Thanintaryi Region are now attending a six-day training course on hand made products from coconuts which is the very first training program opened in Myeik.

The Department of Small and Medium Enterprises Department under the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection in Myeik District and the Myanmar Coconut Growers and Traders Association have jointly arranged the training course that opened yesterday.

It was open with the aim of developing the country's economy by ramping up the condition of the small and medium business enterprises in the region, to provide people with

job opportunities, to ensure new income generating sources and to improve local people's living standards.

Training courses previously occurred in the Ayeyarwady and Yangon Regions, and Mon State, said Daw San San Han, secretary of the Myanmar Coconut Growers and Traders Association.

She said that the coconut based products are a useful business for the tourism industry.

"Most visitors like coconut based handicrafts; especially tourists who come from countries where coconuts are not grown. Hoteliers also buy coconut based products to decorate

their hotel" she said.

The training would help local people with job opportunities in order to generate more income for their families while

the number of visitors to Myeik is increasing, and more training course would be offered in the future, she added. —Myanmar Digital News ■



Participants of the coconut handiwork course have their products put up on display. PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS



Myanmar imports its cement mainly from Thailand and the UAE. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

Cement imports via sea decline in late January

CEMENT imports through the sea route in the final week of last month declined by some 6,500 tonnes, compared with the preceding week starting 14 January, according to border traders.

Myanmar imported more than 962 tonnes of cement, worth over US\$185,000, from its trade partners, via sea, between 21

and 27 January, registering a decrease of more than 6,450 tonnes compared with the previous week.

The country imported some 7,420 tonnes of cement in the week preceding 21 January.

Later last month, importers bought 290 tonnes of cement from neighbouring Thailand and

672 tonnes from the United Arab Emirates.

Despite a decline in the import volume of cement via sea, border imports of similar products between 20 and 26 January rose to 12,440 tonnes, an increase of 6,990 tonnes, compared with the preceding week's total of 5,450 tonnes. —Swe Nyein ■

Trade deficit hits \$3.4 billion in current FY

THE total value of overseas trade for the current fiscal year (FY) hit more than US\$27 billion since April, with a trade deficit of more than \$3.4 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

This time last FY, the country's imports exceeded the value of its exports, resulting in a trade deficit of more than \$3.6 billion.

As of 2 February, the country's external trade rose by

more than \$4.2 billion, compared with the same period last FY, including \$12 billion in exports and more than \$15.5 billion in imports. The value of current foreign trade included \$6.97 billion from border trade, while non-border trade was valued at \$20.6 billion. Efforts are being made by trade authorities to decrease the trade gap by boosting domestic production in anticipation of healthy exports.

The country suffered a trade deficit of more than \$5.5 billion in the last FY. According to the ministry's statistics, the country had a trade deficit of more than \$91 million in the 2012-2013 FY.

The trade deficit increased to \$2.5 billion in the 2013-2014 FY. It continued to rise to \$4.1 billion in the 2014-2015 FY and \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY. —Khine Khant ■

Border exports of areca nuts to India see slight increase

THE export of areca nuts to India from cross-border points in the last week of January saw a slight increase in volume against the preceding week, according to border authorities.

Between 20 and 26 January, India imported 854 tonnes of areca nuts, valued at US\$0.72 million, through border trade camps. Although exports from Tamu border showed a decline in volume, the export volume of the same product rose by nine tonnes, compared with the preceding week ending 19 January.

According to trade authorities, Myanmar sold \$0.31 million worth of areca nuts, weighing 349 tonnes, to India during the week, while another 505 tonnes were sent from the Reed border trade station.

In addition to these, Myanmar exported 117 tonnes of dry goods, cement, pigeon peas and other kinds of commodities to India, mainly from the Tamu border gate.

According to statistics issued by the border trade camp, Myanmar exported 21,492 tonnes of betel nuts to India in the 2016-

2017 fiscal year (FY).

There are some 150,000 acres of betel nut plantations in the country. The Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions and Mon State supply large volumes of areca nuts.

According to official statistics provided by the border trade camps, Myanmar exported \$7.706 million worth of areca nuts, weighing 8,452 tonnes, to India in the 2014-2015 FY. The export volume increased to more than 20,000 tonnes in the 2015-2016 FY and 21,492 tonnes in the 2016-2017 FY. —Shwe Khine ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: **"Sunday Special"** အချပ် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကိုအောက်ပါမြို့များတွင်ဖုန်းနံပါတ်ဖြင့်

Three dead, one hurt in IED explosion in Maungdaw Tsp

"Sunday Special" အချပ် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
မြန်မာ့ရေဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ်(၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၂၁၁၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသိမ်မြို့နယ်၊ ခရိုင်လမ်းခွဲ၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇ ၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးတပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝေဟန်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁ ၆၆၀၄၅၃၂၊ ၀၉ ၉၇၄၄၂၄၁၄၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၁ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲခွေရောင်ရပ်၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂ ၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂ ၃၂၇၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁ ၂၁၀၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၇၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၄ ၂၃၇၁၂

ကျိုင်းတုံ
ဦးညောင် (၃-၈) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းဆွယ်၊ ဦးညောင်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄ ၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃ ၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်ကြီးနား
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ဧရာရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြင်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄ ၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရမ္မာတော်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မိမိတော်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျင်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃ ၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့ အဝေးလမ်းမ၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂ ၂၄၀၆၇

ခြောက်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်းရပ်၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉ ၄၂၁၈၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇ ၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇ ၂၇၂၆

မုံရွာ
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတပ်မတော်အနီး၊ မုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁ ၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁ ၂၆၅၃၃

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Foreign Secretary Johnson arrives at Taung Pyo Letwe Temporary Repatriation Camp. **PHOTO: MNA**



Foreign Secretary Johnson arrives in Sittway to visit repatriation camps in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor, Boris Johnson hold talk over latest development in Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

The Foreign Secretary and his entourage then travelled to Pantaw Pyin Village Tract in Northern Rakhine via military helicopter. The village tract is mostly populated by Muslims. Johnson spoke with the villagers there and asked them about the fire incidents and the help they had received from the Union

government.

Later, they inspected the construction of houses for the villagers, which were being built with the help of the Yangon Region government. They then travelled to Taung Pyo Letwe Township and inspected and toured the temporary repatriation office there.

Mr. Johnson was briefed

by officials on the repatriation process. The repatriation was scheduled to start on 23 January 2018 after Myanmar and Bangladesh reached a mutual agreement. Arrangements have been made at Taung Pyo Letwe Camp to accept returnees from Bangladesh returning by land, and at Nga Ku Ya's repatriation camp for those returning by sea.

Returnees will also have access to a temporary shelter in Hla Pho Kaung Camp, a transit camp.

The Foreign Secretary later thanked the officials responsible for showing him around Rakhine State and said he supported the efforts being made by the Union Government in the repatriation process and for Rakhine State's development. He said Britain

was interested in further discussions to support education and healthcare for women and children, as part of Britain's Department for International Development plans.

Johnson and his entourage then travelled back to Sittway from Taung Pyo Letwe and flew to Nay Pyi Taw in the evening. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Taung Pyo Letwe Repatriation camp. **PHOTO: MNA**



Foreign Secretary Johnson meeting with immigration officers at the Taung Pyo Letwe repatriation camp. **PHOTO: MNA**



Foreign Secretary Johnson arrives in Pantaw Pyin Village to speak with local residents on their situation. **PHOTO: MNA**



Foreign Secretary Johnson speaking with a local Muslim resident in Pantaw Pyin Village. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Four Objectives of the 71st Anniversary Union Day

1. To develop the Union Spirit
2. To make the internal peace process a success with unity of ethnic people
3. To build a Federal Democratic Union through the Union Peace Conference- 21st Century Panglong
4. To boost the economy of the Union by encouraging small and medium enterprises



HONOURING THE 71ST ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY

12 February, 2018

Spread democracy!

We must spread democracy, and must try to build an independent Myanmar through this system. Only democracy is suitable for independence as it is the only system that supports peace. So, democracy must be our goal!

(Excerpt from the speech delivered at the fourth State leaders meeting in August 1945)



Photo: Phoe Khwar

Join the peace process with the Panglong spirit

WHEN countries in the world establish relations with each other, they adopt and follow basic principles such as peaceful coexistence and non-alignment. However, with instability, armed conflicts and invasion, problems may occur in any country.

A few sincere countries usually help others who are facing difficulties.

However, a country that is facing obstacles has to strive to tackle its own problems.

To resolve problems at home, unity among people plays an important role.

The indigenous people and the government have the responsibility of believing in those who love our country.

For people who have suffered from the lack of peace, as evidence of our love for the generations to come, who will have to bear the burden of our legacies, both good and bad, such a responsibility can never be too heavy. This is a unique opportunity for us to accomplish a great task, which will serve as a landmark throughout our history.

When we solve our problems, we will be able to guarantee equal rights, mutual respect and mutual confidence between all ethnic nationalities. We also call it the Panglong Spirit.

Only if we are united will our country be at peace. Only if our country is at peace will we be able to stand on an equal footing with other countries in our region and across the world.

Panglong is not merely a part of Shan State, but an important part of the entire union.

The union first established the spirit on the basis of consultation, discussion, coordination and agreement. The term Panglong — a very simple, short name — is pleasing and exciting to the people. Panglong is recognised not as a ceremony but as a valuable part of history.

The Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement (NCA) is the first step not only towards peace, but also towards the establishment of the long-held

hope for a democratic federal republic.

Today, our country is embarking on this journey towards peace with full confidence in the people of our union. As long as we are unable to achieve national reconciliation and national unity, we will never be able to establish a sustainable and lasting peaceful union.

Our country has suffered from internal armed conflicts for more than half a century — almost 70 years now. Yet, peace cannot be achieved without the involvement of all groups in the society. No peace process can succeed without the support of the people.

Only if we are united will our country be at peace. Only if our country is at peace will we be able to stand on an equal footing with other countries in our region and across the world. We have implemented the Panglong spirit through unity and cooperation, and the hope of our people for freedom is equally important in the 21st century.

On this auspicious Union Day, celebrated on 12 February, we, the Global New Light of Myanmar, would like to urge all indigenous peoples to join the peace process, openly and on equal terms, as they did at the 20th Century Panglong Conference.

Today, the whole country will observe Union Day with the Panglong spirit.

By Maha Saddhamma
Jotika Dhaja, Sithu
Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

The Reminiscence of the 18th Anniversary of the Union Day 12-2-1965

Politically auspicious day of to-day the 71st anniversary of the Union Day 12 February 2018, my thoughts linger back to the 18th anniversary of the Union Day 12 February 1965, 53 years ago. That great event took place at the foot of naturally beautiful Zwegabin Hill, the landmark of Kayin State.

Months before the occasion, preparations were made by the Government and the people. A large space was made at the foot of the Hill by clearing the thick forests and levelling the undulating ground, on which masses of all Myanmar ethnic nationalities were to assemble to commemorate the anniversary. Besides the entire rural town Pa-an was raised to the state of totally urbanized capital of

Kayin State Town's areas were extended. Infrastructures were improved and increased. The plan to open Pa-an Collage was begun. Houses to accommodate the various ethnic delegations, officers for Committees and Sub-committees and their accommodations, accommodations for the VIPs of Myanmar Government and Embassies, Union ethnic Leaders, and media The Guardian, The Nation, The Working Peoples Daily, Kyemon, Myanmar Alin Thuriya The Sun Daily branch officers and Presses were set up.

The writer of this article was the head and professor of the Department of Modern History and Political Science, Mawlamyine Degree College. He was assigned to the compilation and publishing of the history of Kayin State. So he carried out that task on time with the cooperation of the staffs of Geography, Geology and Anthropology Departments of the College. Dr. Pe Thuang the Principal of

the College himself was a native of Chaung Zone or Bilu kyun. So he could direct us where and whom we should tap and collect data for our work. The army provided us with land, water and air transport for data collection. We hovered many times on Kayin State and landed on the Summit of Zwegabin Hill. Amazing and exciting job we never dreamt before. Amidst nature's beauty were dotted several historical and religious monuments on the Summits, in the valleys of the hills and mountain ranges. The entire Dohnataung-tan was dark blue under the azure sunny sky. From Mawlamyine College to Pa-an we took riverine journey every weekend and stopped on the way to study the historic sites on either bank of the River Than Lwin with many tributaries. So called Shwe-

gun Boat was the only major transport between Mawlamyine and Shwegun in the north. By special arrangement we visited old teak house built of only one teak trunk called Taing-ta-lone

Ein, U Nan Lauk's monastic complex temples and Pagodas. As we approached we visited many natural stone caves, Kawgun Cave, Latkhana Cave, Saddam Cave, Bayin nyee Cave, Khayone Cave etc., etc. multiple natural formations such as Stella mites and stellatites chandeliers of stone from above, anthill

shaped stone pillars from below, red-coloured drips or drops of chemical solution called Kyauk Thwe [ausmu-faoG:] which local people believe use as panacea for curing all diseases, breath taking views of water gushing from atop or from the mouths of stone caves.

The famous Saddam Cave was believed to be the dwelling den of the white Elephant Saddam, one of the previous lives of Lord Gotama Buddha. On the ceilings and walls of such caves were stuck multiple terra-cotta tablets with embossed or painted letters of Mon, Pali

and Kayin. Some places were missing due to the believers' acts of sacrilege. Around the areas, undersea fossils and artifacts of cave dwellers of the Neolithic Stone Age were often chance-discovered. The old legend that Suvanna Bhumi was on the sea coast and the meaning of Zwegabin was the jetty post to type the ropes when the ships anchored there. These paleontological and archaeological finds have convinced us that those legends are true. There are many hot water springs and ponds in Kayin State. They are sulphur springs. Some are so hot that you can even boil egg in them. For relaxation, therapy treatment or pleasure, people young and old, both home and abroad, visit these hot springs and ponds.

Rock formations of grotesque shapes are also attractions, here too numerous to mention them. The writer recommends better visit yourself as "seeing is believing". Now, let's turn to the 18th Union Day Commemorative Ceremony. As the writer was chosen the master of ceremony in full dress with head-gear

Gaugbaung, Long over coat [Yin phone Eingyi] and Pu-soe-taung-shey [elongated long nether garment] stood at the rostrum surrounded by amplifiers. An army of media men focused their instruments on the MC Master of Ceremony the writer who announced the opening of the ceremony, inviting the VIPS according to their seniority of rank beginning with the President of the Republic of the Union of Burma [Myanmar]. His Excellency Bogoyoke San Yu when all were seated, the writer M.C invited the delegations of the ethnic nationalities according to the alphabetical order.

Next followed the programme of items -salutation of the Flag of the Union which raised to the top of the mast in tune with the National Anthem being played. Then 3 minutes' silence to remember and to pay respect and loving kindness [metta] to Bogoyoke Aung San and all fallen national leaders. Then Presidential address echoed the entice mass rally and beyond reaching out to the ten directions. The mass rally dispersed with the slogans sounding about our three main

causes "Non-disintegration of the Union, Non disintegration of National Solidarity and Perpetuation

of our sovereignty. "Two weeks of Seminar, presentations of papers, discussions, questions and answers, advice, suggestion for the solidarity, promotion of cultural heritage of all ethnic nationalities and holding of the Union Day Anniversary at the capitals of the States proved that the achievement of 1st Panglong Conference of 20th century led by Bogoyoke Aung San and his colleagues had borne fruits, though he and many of his colleagues were now no more. About 3 to 4 years following 1965, 18th Anniversary at Pa-an, there was a complete peace across the counting. So the anniversaries took place at Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Myitkyina. But unfortunately armed conflicts broke out across the country. So now Chin State [Special Division], Rakhine State, Kayah State and Mon State failed to get their turns.

To-day as the present Government, political parties and ethnic nationalities and the entice peoples of Myanmar are working together for realizing the 21st century Panglong Conference with the process of democratization, we are witnessing some progress inspite of challenges home and abroad. The writer, now an Octogenarian, is still healthy, a sound mind in a sound body, and he is never hesitant to take his share if he is called upon to take. His only wish and prayer is that he'll live to see the 21st century Panglong Conference achieved.



Photo: Phoe Khwar

Awakening the Union Spirit

By U Aung (Shwe Pauk Kan)

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar is an independent, sovereign state and a member of the United Nations. Our country is just making its tracks in modern history.

Constitutional establishment

All the countries around the world have different ruling systems that reflect the needs and culture of its people. The common ones are the kingdoms, the republic, the unions or union of states, the emirates and the socialist and the democratic states. For thousands of years the people in the area of Myanmar have lived together in unity and harmony. The Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan have lived and worked hand in hand for generations and will continue to do so in the future.

All of Myanmar citizens are protected under the Myanmar Citizenship Law; a special law that takes precedence over general laws. Lawfully too are we ethnic brothers and sisters united as the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Being united in spirit means all of Myanmar is akin to a single family under one roof. It does not matter which region you are from for we are all the same citizen under a single flag.

The strength of a nation

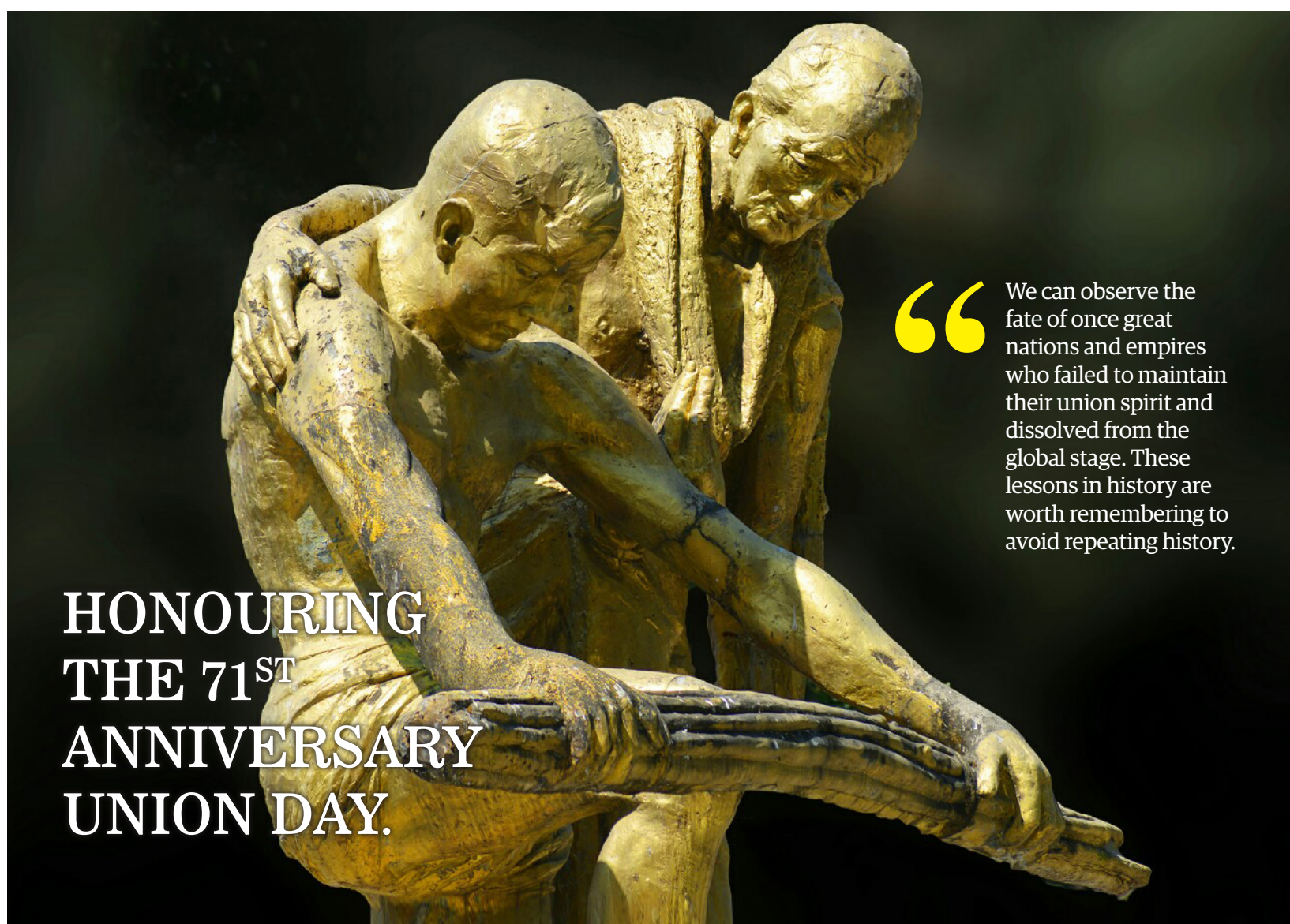
If we look closely at the reason nations are formed, it is usually because of the need for defence and security. Every country has the safety and sovereignty of its citizens in its interest. Countries that were the earliest to be developed did so by increasing their economic and military strength. To avoid oppression from more powerful states, nations began to band together under one state. This is what leads to the formation of a Union.

Lessons worth learning

We can observe the fate of once great nations and empires which failed to maintain their union spirit and dissolved from the global stage. These lessons in history are worth remembering to avoid repeating history.

Only in unity ...

Our population has grown over 50 million since the Panglong Agreement was signed. Therefore we need to have more serious considerations for the development of the ethnic states. As Bogyoke Aung San said in his speech on the night when the Panglong Agreement was signed, there may be minor disagreements and differences between all of us but protecting the sovereignty of the state should be the same priority of us all. If we put aside our differences and use all of our resources towards the common goal then we can all share the benefits of our hard work.



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THE 71ST
ANNIVERSARY
UNION DAY.

“ We can observe the fate of once great nations and empires who failed to maintain their union spirit and dissolved from the global stage. These lessons in history are worth remembering to avoid repeating history.

Riyadh's Ritz 'luxury prison' reopens after graft crackdown

RIYADH — Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton reopened for business on Sunday, three months after it became a holding place for princes and ministers detained in the biggest anti-graft purge of the kingdom's elite in its modern history.

The luxury hotel had been closed for business since the unprecedented probe was launched on 4 November by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has tightened his grip on power since his shock appointment as heir to the throne last June.

A hotel receptionist reached by phone confirmed to AFP that the hotel was open to the public. Another source inside the hotel said the property had no detainees.

Many of the high-profile suspects, including billionaire Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal — dubbed the Warren Buffett of Saudi Arabia — have been released in recent weeks in exchange for what officials have dubbed financial settlements.

Attorney General Sheikh Saud al-Mojeb said in late January that after completing in-



The Ritz-Carlton hotel in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh reopened for business on Sunday. **PBPHOTO: AFP**

quiries into 381 high-profile corruption suspects, he would keep 56 in custody and free the rest. It was unclear if the remaining suspects had been moved to another facility.

Total settlements with the suspects had topped \$107 billion in various forms of assets hand-

ed over that included property, securities and cash, he said.

Another high-profile detainee, former National Guard chief Prince Miteb bin Abdullah, was released following a "settlement" with the authorities that reportedly exceeded \$1 billion.

Prince Mohammed, the

32-year-old son of the king, has spearheaded the crackdown on corruption among members of the government and royal family over the past three months.

Some critics have labelled Prince Mohammed's campaign a shakedown and power grab, but authorities insist the purge

targeted endemic corruption as the country prepares for a post-oil era.

In an interview with The New York Times in November, Prince Mohammed described as "ludicrous" reports equating the crackdown to a power grab, saying that many of those detained at the opulent Ritz-Carlton had already pledged allegiance to him.

The five-star hotel, originally built to house guests of the royal family, is a far cry from a gritty prison cell — it boasts majestic suites and pastel-hued hallways awash with bronze statues and glittering chandeliers.

It prompted light-hearted banter on social media, with jocular speculation on who would be added to the "Ritz guest list", and some quipping "take us with you" to be incarcerated in the lavish hotel.

The hotel's executive chef has created a new menu this week for its restaurants, with a "grand buffet" planned next weekend around its large indoor swimming pool, the local Arab News daily reported.—AFP ■

11 Turkish troops killed in deadliest day of Kurdish offensive

ANKARA — Eleven Turkish soldiers were killed on Saturday, including two military personnel when a helicopter was downed, in the bloodiest day in Ankara's offensive against a Kurdish militia in northern Syria.

On 20 January, Turkey launched a military operation against the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia in the Afrin region, backing Syrian rebels with air strikes and ground troops.

"At this stage, we can say that one out of two helicopters was downed. We have two martyrs," Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said in televised remarks.

The Turkish military later said nine more soldiers were killed in separate incidents but did not give details.

Another 11 soldiers were injured after the offensive's bloodiest day for Turkish military personnel, the army said.

Yildirim said the helicopter was on a mission in the Afrin region as part of Ankara's offensive dubbed Operation "Olive Branch".

Ankara says the YPG is a "terrorist" offshoot of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has waged a three-decade insurgency inside Turkey and is blacklisted by Washington and the European Union.

Mustefa Bali, spokesman for the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces dominated by the YPG, said on Twitter that a helicopter had been hit in the Rajo area of northwest Afrin, near the Turkish border.

But the state-run news agency Anadolu said the incident happened in the southern border province of Hatay, with the private Dogan news agency saying authorities were trying to reach the wreckage in the Kirikhan district.

Earlier, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said a helicopter had been shot down without saying who was responsible.

"Of course, these kinds of things will happen. We are in a war. We will have losses, but we will cause the other side to have losses as well," he said in a televised speech, vowing to make

the perpetrators pay "a much heavier price".

- 'Threat to Turkey' -

The Turkish military said one of its helicopters crashed at 1300 (1000 GMT) killing two military personnel but did not give a reason for the incident, only saying that an investigation had been launched.

Last Saturday, seven Turk-

ish troops died in the second worst single-day loss of the operation so far, with five killed in a tank attack. Some 1,141 "terrorists" had been neutralised during the operation, Erdogan said, referring to those killed but also those captured or wounded.

It was not immediately possible to verify this figure. Yildirim earlier said Turkey had not

launched its operation in Afrin to enter into a war or because it had "an eye" on another country's territory. "Excuse me but no state would ignore a terror organisation growing like a tumour next to it," he said. "This is a threat to Turkey which Ankara has the natural right to fight under international and domestic law," Yildirim added.—AFP ■



Turkey launched Operation Olive Branch in northern Syria on 20 January, targeting the Kurdish YPG militia. **PHOTO: AFP**



PHOTO: TASS

Russia's defence ministry to sign contract for 12 Su-57 fighter jets

KOMSOMOLSK-ON-AMUR — Russia's defence ministry plans to sign a contract for a preproduction batch of fifth-generation Su-57 fighter jets, Russian Deputy Defence Minister Yuri Borisov said on 8 Thursday February.

"We are buying Su-57 jets for test combat use. First stage state trials are over," he told journalists. "This year, we will sign a contract for the first

batch of 12 Su-57 fighter jets for the Armed Forces."

According to Borisov, the first two planes of this batch may come into service in 2019. He said that ten out of 12 previously manufactured jets are undergoing flight tests.

When asked about performance of the new engine for Su-57, he answered: "So far, it is difficult to say because there have had been only one

flight. Everything seems to be all right. But you know, it is a series of trials. Many flights are to be performed. As a rule, such trials take two or three years," he said.

The Su-57 (PAK FA) performed its maiden flight in 2010. On 5 December, it made the first flight with a new engine. Currently, the plane is equipped with the so-called stage-on engine 117C. The new engine has

been given no name so far and is conventionally referred to as "stage-two engine." It was reported in August 2017 that Russia's the PAK FA fifth-generation fighter jet had received the serial index of Su-57. The experimental design work on the most advanced fighter jet should be completed in 2019 and its deliveries to the troops should begin at that time.

—Tass ■

Marathon Kim Dotcom case back in New Zealand court

WELLINGTON — Internet mogul Kim Dotcom's legal case returns to court in New Zealand on Monday for what may be the Megaupload founder's final chance of avoiding extradition to the United States.

Dotcom's epic extradition battle has dragged on for more than six years, starting in January 2012 when armed police acting on an FBI request raided his Auckland mansion.

The 44-year-old German national is accused of industrial-scale online piracy via his Megaupload empire, which US authorities shut down when the raid took place.

If sent to the United States he will face charges of racketeering, fraud and money laundering carrying jail terms of up to 20 years.

Dotcom and his three co-accused — Finn Batato, Mathias Ortmann, Bram van der Kolk — maintain their innocence and will challenge the legitimacy of their arrests this week at the Court of Appeal in Wellington.

If the appeals court rules Dotcom is eligible for extradition, a process that could take months, he will have limited options for overturning the decision. Theoretically, he could go to the Supreme Court, but his legal team would need compelling new evidence that he was facing a miscarriage of justice.

—AFP ■

Trump laments 'shattered' lives after aides resign

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said on Saturday that lives were being "shattered" by allegations that may be false after two of his White House aides quit over domestic abuse accusations.

Trump's White House has been heavily criticized for its handling of the allegations, which come amid a national debate over sexual misconduct and the #MeToo movement that has seen an avalanche of claims fell towering figures across various industries.

Critics say the president's chief of staff, John Kelly, has badly mishandled the matter and that his future at the White



President Donald Trump. PHOTO: AFP

House hangs by a thread.

"Peoples lives are being shattered and destroyed by a mere allegation," Trump tweeted.

"Some are true and some are false. Some are old and some are new. There is no recovery for someone falsely accused — life and career are gone. Is there no such thing any longer as Due Process?"

The remark by the president — himself the target of numerous harassment claims — came after White House speechwriter David Sorensen resigned on Friday, even while denying his former wife's claims of abuse.

And staff secretary Rob Porter stepped down Wednesday after abuse allegations from two ex-wives became public that he too denied.

Trump not only accepted Porter's claim of innocence but praised him for doing "a very good job" and offered his wishes for "a wonderful career" ahead.

The president has stood by other men — including Roy Moore, the Alabama Republican who ran unsuccessfully for the US Senate — when they faced allegations of abuse or harassment, while rarely expressing sympathy for the women who accused them. —AFP ■

N Korea had frank, candid talks with S Korea's president: KCNA

BEIJING — North Korea's delegation to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, including its leader Kim Jong Un's younger sister, had "frank and candid" talks with South Korean President Moon Jae In, official media said on Sunday.

The Korean Central News Agency reported that Kim Yo Jong delivered a letter and message from her brother during the meeting on Saturday in Seoul, but did not mention that Kim Jong Un invited Moon to visit Pyongyang for a summit.

South Korea's presidential office said after the meeting that the North Korean leader has invited Moon to visit his country and expressed willingness to improve inter-Korean ties in the letter. Moon was quoted by the news agency as saying, "The current visit of the delegation of the north side created a spark of improving the inter-Korean relations and ensuring peace on the Korean peninsula." "The inter-Korean relations should be mended by the parties concerned at any cost," Moon was quoted by the agency as adding.



(From L) South Korea's President Moon Jae In, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea, and Kim Yo Jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, watch together a women's preliminary round ice hockey game between the unified Korean team and Switzerland in Gangneung, South Korea, at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics on 10 February, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

North Korea's ceremonial leader Kim Yong Nam, who heads the delegation, responded by saying the two Koreas could overcome "unexpected difficulties" when "having a firm will and taking courage and determination to usher in a new heyday of inter-Korean relations," according to KCNA.

The formal meeting

between Moon and the delegation was held the day after the two nations' athletes marched under a unified flag at the opening ceremony of the Olympics on Friday. It was very rare for a South Korean president to hold formal talks with high-ranking North Korean officials, as the two countries remain technically at war after an armistice

stopped the 1950-53 Korean War.

During the bilateral talks over lunch, neither side made mention of Pyongyang's nuclear issue, which is attracting international attention as a major security concern and has heightened tensions, a presidential office source said. —Kyodo News ■

Novel tool that measures cell strength could help identify drugs for asthma, hypertension

LOS ANGELES — Researchers have developed a new tool that can measure the physical strength of individual cells 100 times faster than current technologies. It is the first high-throughput tool that can measure the strength of thousands of individual cells at a time, according to the new study, as described in Nature Biomedical Engineering. "We took a fresh approach to identify molecules that could serve as drugs to meet an unmet need for new treatments to treat or cure chronic disease," Dr Reynold A Panettieri Jr, study co-author and professor of medicine at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, was quoted as saying in a news release.

The new device, called fluorescently labeled elastomeric contractile surfaces, or FLECS, could make it easier and faster to test and evaluate new drugs for diseases associated with abnormal levels of cell strength, including hypertension, asthma and muscular dystrophy. It may also open new avenues for biological research into cell force.

Cells use physical force for essential biological functions. Disruptions in a cell's ability to control the levels of force they exert can lead to diseases or loss of important bodily functions. "Apart from demonstrating the feasibility of screening compounds for drug discovery, we also discovered that the conventional notion that increases in calcium levels within a cell are essential to control cell shortening

or migration that is important in asthma or cancer metastasis was incorrect," Panettieri said. "Our observations using this novel platform offer a new paradigm regarding cell activation and approaches to screen molecules to target such processes." According to the study, the device's key component is a flexible rectangular plate with more than 100,000 uniformly spaced X-shaped micropatterns of proteins that are sticky, so that cells settle on and attach themselves to them.

The X's embedded in the plate are elastic, so they shrink whenever the cells contract. The X's are made fluorescent with a molecular marker to enable imaging and quantification of how much the shapes shrink. To test the tool, the researchers analyzed drugs that make cells either contract or relax, using human smooth-muscle cells which line the airways in the body. They also conducted additional testing to further demonstrate the device's versatility and effectiveness, according to a news release from UCLA. "Our tool tracks how much force individual cells exert over time, and how they react when they are exposed to different compounds or drugs," said Dino Di Carlo, professor of bioengineering at the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science and the project's principal investigator. "It's like a microscopic fitness test for cells with thousands of parallel stations." —Xinhua ■

Scores of flights canceled as storm pummels US Midwest

CHICAGO — A winter storm brought heavy snowfall to parts of the US Midwest on Friday, causing 1,500 flight cancellations, snarling roads and closing schools.

"Snow will make weather headlines from the greater Chicago met-

ro area to Detroit on Friday, with winter storm warnings in effect," the National Weather Service said.

Schools were closed in both cities and multiple car crashes were reported on icy roads. Flight cancellations built up quickly

— especially at Chicago's O'Hare, one of the nation's busiest airports.

The Detroit and Chicago metropolitan areas were forecast to receive as much as nine inches (23 centimeters) of snow, with more than one inch per hour falling in Detroit

on Friday morning.

Nearly 1,000 flights were delayed and another 1,500 canceled at Detroit and Chicago airports. More than half of the cancellations were at O'Hare, where seven inches (18 cm) of snow had accumulated by noon. —AFP ■

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Michael Haneke blasts #MeToo campaign

LOS ANGELES — Michael Haneke, the director of acclaimed film “Amour”, has slammed the #MeToo movement and said the campaign leads to a “new puritanism” that worries him.

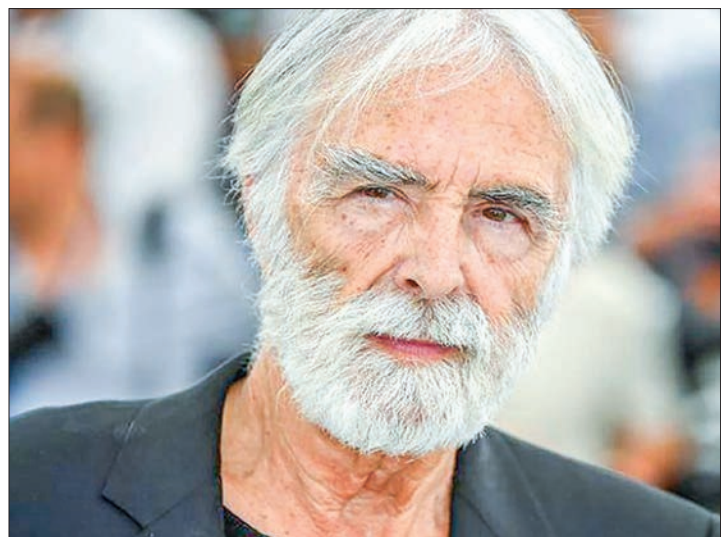
In an interview with Austrian daily Kurier, the Oscar-nominated director also blasted media for “murdered lives and careers in the process” and said the movement against sexual abuse is a “witch-hunt”.

“This new puritanism coloured by a hatred of men, arriving on the heels of the #MeToo movement, worries

me,” Haneke said, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

“As artistes, we’re starting to be fearful since we’re faced with this crusade against any form of eroticism,” he added. However, Haneke said any act of “rape or sexual coercion” should be punished.

“But I find the hysteria and condemnations without any trial totally disgusting,” he added. Haneke joins veteran French actor Catherine Deneuve, who had earlier derided the #MeToo movement, which “unfairly punishes men for flirting”.—PTI ■



Michael Haneke, the director of acclaimed film “Amour”..
PHOTO: PTI



Actress Kim Cattrall, seen here in 2014, has tough words for former “Sex and the City” co-star Sarah Jessica Parker
PHOTO: AFP

Tensions between ‘Sex and the City’ stars burst into the open

LOS ANGELES — After years of reported behind-the-scenes friction, tensions between two “Sex and the City” stars erupted into public view on Saturday.

The star of the popular HBO series, Sarah Jessica Parker, had long been known to have a difficult relationship with one of her three co-stars, Kim Cattrall.

There were reports, regularly denied by Cattrall, that she was the one holding up plans for a possible second sequel to the original movie version of “Sex and the City.”

When the TV series began in 1998, Parker was already friends

with Cynthia Nixon, who played one of her three “best friends” as they bounced through their Manhattan adventures. She later drew close to the fourth star, Kristin Davis. Relations with Cattrall were another matter.

Early Saturday, Cattrall posted on Instagram: “I don’t need your love or support at this tragic time @sarahjessicaparker.”

“My Mom asked me today, ‘When will that @sarahjessicaparker, that hypocrite, leave you alone?’ Your continuous reaching out is a painful reminder of how cruel you really were then and now,” Cattrall added.

She included a link to a New York Post article titled “Inside the mean-girls culture that destroyed ‘Sex and the City.’”

In the reference to tragedy, Cattrall appeared to be reacting to a social media post from Parker in which she expressed her “love and condolences” to Cattrall over the death of her brother Chris Cattrall, who was found dead at his property in Canada last week. Cattrall’s Instagram post continued: “You are not my friend. So I’m writing to tell you one last time to stop exploiting our tragedy in order to restore your ‘nice girl’ persona.”—AFP ■

Salman, Bobby and Daisy shoot for ‘Race 3’ in Bangkok

MUMBAI — Actors Salman Khan, Bobby Deol and Daisy Shah are currently in Bangkok filming their upcoming movie, “Race 3”.

Bobby took to Twitter where he shared a selfie with his co-stars and the film’s producer Ramesh Taurani.

“Racing on, in Bangkok!! @ShahDaisy25 @BeingSalmanKhan @RameshTaurani @SKFilmsOfficial @

tipsofficial #Race3,” the actor wrote.

The third installment in the ‘Race’ franchise will be helmed by choreographer-director Remo D’ Souza.

Co-produced by Salman Khan Films, the movie also stars Jacqueline Fernandez, Anil Kapoor and Saqib Saleem.

Salman, 51, has replaced Saif Ali Khan as the lead in the action-thriller.—PTI ■



Jacqueline Fernandez has worked with Remo D’Souza in ‘A Flying Jatt’ and with Salman Khan in ‘Kick.’
PHOTO: PTI



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends MyTel launching ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

MyTel launches First Call in Nay Pyi Taw

MyTel, a joint-venture of Myanmar and Vietnam and the fourth Myanmar's telephone operator, launched the First Call yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Telecom International Myanmar Company Limited (Mytel)'s First Call ceremony held at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw was attended by Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and officials and diplomats from Viet Nam and Myanmar.

Senior General Min Aung

Hlaing made a trial Video Call to Viet Nam Defence Minister H.E. General Ngo Xuan Lich.

When U Khin Maung Soe, Chairman of Telecom International Myanmar Company Limited (MyTel) and CEO of MyTel Mr. Nguyen Thanh Nam announced the readiness of operation, the launching ceremony was formally opened by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, union ministers U Thant SinMaung, U Win Khaing and U Kyaw Win, Quartermaster-General Lieutenant

General Nyo Saw, Viet Nam Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Luan Thuy Duong, the Telecom International Myanmar Company Limited (MyTel)'s Chairman U Khin Maung Soe and CEO Mr. Nguyen Thanh Nam.

The Telecom International Myanmar Company Limited (MyTel) is a Joint Venture and its 51 per cent share is owned by a local consortium comprising 11 private organizations and 49 per cent by Viet Nam side. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Yangon University of Dental Medicine holds 40th graduation ceremony

THE Yangon University of Dental Medicine (YUDM) held its 40th graduation ceremony yesterday at the convocation hall of Yangon University. Rector Dr. Shwe Toe of YUDM conferred degrees on 180

graduates, including seven PhDs in clinical dentistry, 33 masters in dental science, 13 diplomas in dental science and 127 bachelors in dental surgery. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Govt seeks advice from entrepreneurs before enactment ...

FROM PAGE-1

The union government has to submit the union tax law to the two houses of parliament. The current 2017 Union Tax Law has faced a lot of criticism and complaints.

U Myo Min Aung, vice-president of Myanmar Retailers Association, said that the association also discussed taxation barriers, including difficulties in the current taxation system, and new businesses that are unable to show their sources of income. The next point was related to taxation that is only based on the decoration of shops. The discussion covered problems between the increasing tax rate and businesses. In other countries, authorities try to reduce the tax rate when the country's economy faces a decline. Weak taxation may lead to more tax evasion. However, U Myo Min Aung said he was satisfied with the attempt made by revenue authorities to

draft a new bill related to the formation of a body that solves taxation problems.

At the meeting, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said the tax system should be agreeable to both government and taxpayers. The government wants to make the tax collection system more effective, while citizens must pay their taxes as dutiful citizens, he added.

The country's productivity is expected to increase thanks to the new tax law, he stated.

At the 14th monthly meeting between the vice-president and private entrepreneurs on 1 February, U Phyo Min Thein said, "Discussions will include the current revenue-related challenges and difficulties in doing business and finding solutions. The report will be put forward to the union government through the regional government after necessary assessments." — Myanmar News Agency ■

Brazilian women say 'No Means No' at carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO — "No means no" is a new battle cry for Brazilian women mobilizing against assault at carnival, a raucous party whose free-wheeling atmosphere leaves women particularly vulnerable to unwanted sexual contact.

In the wake of the Harvey Weinstein episode that triggered the #MeToo campaign against harassment in the United States, Brazilian women are out in full force — with some even sporting temporary tattoos with the message emblazoned across their shoulders, arms and chests.

Rio's carnival — the world's largest — falls during the city's pre-Lenten blowout which draws millions of near-naked revelers dancing as the alcohol flows, and flows.

The feast of excess is also often the backdrop for a slew of sexual assaults, particularly against women.

Luka Borges therefore is tirelessly distributing the temporary "No Means No" tattoos as part of a street parade — known as a "bloco" — set to samba tunes in Rio's center.

"There is a lot of machismo in Brazil — so doing this for carnival is really pressing," the 28-year-old project manager told AFP.

"We women spend much more time out in the streets, wearing less clothing — then this is their pretext for aggression."

Borges created with four friends "No Means No" tattoos, and began distributing them to women last year during some

of the city's blocos, after one of them was harassed.

Thanks to social media and a crowdfunding campaign, some 27,000 tattoos have been produced for the 2018 carnival, in Rio as well as cities including Salvador, Sao Paulo and Olinda.

- Political act -

"A lot of the time, at past carnivals, we were harassed and did not even realize it," said Anna Studard, a 27-year-old theater producer. "We thought it was normal! But I think in the past couple of years we've started to realize that 'no means no.'"

Carnival, with its totally uninhibited and ultra-sexy atmosphere is widely seen as a moment parties can kiss and touch strangers without concern. Yet far from taking a puritanical turn, the women be-

hind this campaign simply say they're simply trying to bolster the "my body, my rules" concept already familiar to many in Brazil.

"If we continue to cover ourselves, to hide, the youngest girls will have to continue to protect themselves," said Borges. "I think it's a political act to walk around with bare breasts, for example."

For some Brazilians, the "No Means No" temporary tattoo sends a message beyond feminism. "My fiancé is traveling. And this tattoo will prevent anyone from spoiling my party; I feel safer," said Caroline Fachetti, 19, who sports a striped swimsuit top and blue short shorts.

Beside her, six English tourists drink beers and take in the scene. — AFP ■



A reveler on the first night of carnival in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 9 February 2018. At the pre-Lenten parties women are out more and wear less — which they say predators use to justify abuse . PHOTO: AFP



Cyclists in action for their Champion title in Fourth day of 2018 Asia Road and Para Cycling Championship. **PHOTO: KO KO SOE NYUNT**

Fourth day of 2018 Asia Road and Para Cycling Championship

THE 2018 Asian Cycling and Para Cycling Championship jointly organized by Asian Cycling Confederation and Myanmar Cycling Federation under the supervision of Ministry of Health and Sports began in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 February.

A total of 46 cyclists from 15 nations took part at the Individual Men U-23 (156) kilometers competition yesterday in which Masaki Yamamoto from Japan won the first prize with a record of 3 hours, 34 minutes and 05 seconds followed by Mohammad Ganjkhanelou from Iran, who won second prize at 3 hours, 34 minutes and 05 seconds while Jambaljamts Sainbayar from Mongolia took the third prize with a 3 hours, 34

minutes and 08 seconds record.

In the afternoon, a total of 27 athletes from nine nations took part in the Individual Women Elite (106) kilometers competition where Thi That Nguyen from Viet Nam won the first prize and was followed Ting Ying Huang from Taipei, China at second place and Yao Chang also from Taipei, China came in third place with the records of 3 hours, 11 minutes and 59 seconds each.

In the evening at the Individual Women U-23 (70) km competition, a total of 20 cyclists from nine nations participated with Zixin Liu from China taking first prize with a 1 hour 59 minutes and 45 seconds record. Jiajun Sun, China took the second prize

with a 1 hour 59 minutes and 50 seconds record while Mai Thi Thu Nguyen from Viet Nam came in third place with a 1 hour 59 minutes and 56 seconds record.

After the races, officials from the Sports and Physical Education Department, General Secretary of Asian Cycling Confederation Mr. Onkar Singh, Myanmar Cycling Federation Chairman U Khin Maung Win and other officials presented the prizes to the winning cyclists.

A total of 415 cyclists from 23 nations including Myanmar took part in the Cycling Championship which will continue till 12 February. The public is invited to watch the competition for free. —Myo Thu Hein ■



Winners celebrate their victory at yesterday's cycling tourney. **PHOTO: KO KO SOE NYUNT**



Cyclists from around the world competed in the championship. **PHOTO: KO KO SOE NYUNT**

Myanmar Lethwei fights to be held in Japan

THE event "Excellent Myanmar Lethwei Fights" will be hosted at Korakuen Hall in Tokyo on 21 February, according to the Myanmar Lethwei World Championship (MLWC). There will be six lethwei fights at the event, two 63kg fights, one 66kg fights, one 70kg fight, one 73kg fight and a 100kg fight, organisers said. In the 70kg match, Soe Lin Oo of Myanmar will square off against Hareruya of Japan. In the 63kg matches, Tun Lwin Moe of Myanmar will fight Shunichi Shimizu of Japan, while Taiki Fukuda of Japan will fight against Hwang Chang-Hwan of Korea. In the

73kg match, Min Htet Aung of Myanmar will fight against Kohei Tokeshi of Japan. In the 66kg match, Kyal Zin Phyo of Myanmar will fight against Hikaru Hasumi of Japan. In the 100kg, Yabu of Japan will fight Chris Vice of Australia. The tickets for seats will be available in Japan. B Class seats can be purchased for ¥4,000 (Ks48,770), A Class for ¥5,000, Standard Class for ¥7,000, while VIP Class seats will cost ¥10,000, according to the MLWC. A replay of the matches will be broadcast by MNTV at 1.30pm on 10 March, said an official from the MLWC. —KyawZin Lin ■

Yangon seizes the game in U-21 MNL League

KyawZin Lin

YANGON United (U-21) garnered conquest over Magway (U-21) with 5-0 in yesterday's U-21 Myanmar National League tourney.

Both teams played with sweaty efforts from the start. But, Yangon made an opener at 15 minute with a pretty header by Hlwan Moe Oo over the support of Kyaw Min Thu via a corner kick.

Magway tried to recov-

er the goal but Yangon again scored for their 2nd goal at the 22 minute mark by the amazing score of Kaung Htet Soe.

The two leading goals made Magway stressed out for the rest of the game.

The power play style of Yangon made the third goal for Yangon at 30 minute. Naing Min Thu scored with his header over the assist of Saw Aung Myo Tun from left wing.

Magway players never

gave up and tried to equalize the goals.

Yangon made the fourth goal with Hlwan Moe Oo's score in 40 minutes via the support of his team mate.

Magway were much better in tactic and tackling in the other half, resulting for Yangon could not made easy penetrating. However, by a mistake of Magway, the fifth and final goal was scored by Saw Aung Myo Tun just before the game's end. ■