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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Ma Mya Dam in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region is providing power to nearby rural areas in addition to irrigating crops. **PHOTO: NAY LIN**

Ma Mya Dam benefiting public

THE Ma Mya Dam in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, is providing power to the nearby rural areas, in addition to irrigation water to the public, according to construction division 9 of the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department.

Staff Officer U Khin Maung Than of the division said, "In the past, farmers had to rely on rain water for cultivation. The dam can provide water for summer paddy and additional water for

monsoon paddy. The dam is benefiting the public in three ways. It prevents floods during the rainy season, provides water for summer paddy and generates power for the nearby villages."

The construction of the dam on Ma Mya Creek began in the 2001-2002 fiscal year (FY) and was completed in 2007. It has the capacity to irrigate some 8,369 acres, and arrangements have been made to supply water to 4,369 acres in Myanaung Town-

ship and 4,000 acres in Ingapu Township. The dam began supplying water for summer paddy in the 2005-2006 FY.

U Mya Oo of Myinwartaung Village, Myanaung Township, said, "Ours is a huge village. We have an affiliated school, which has more than 200 students. In the past, we used solar lamps. As solar lamps are expensive, everybody could not afford it. Electric power means more progress."

An engineer U Zeya Thein of Construction Division 9 said, "We are working to provide more than 1,000 nearby homes with electricity from two 250-kilowatt turbines.

We are now providing power to a village with 300 households. Additionally, the dam is electrifying a monastery, a school, a police station and a Forest Department Office." The unit also built a micro power station to electrify the villages

located near the dam in 2014. It is now providing power to Myinwartaung Village, Myanaung Township, which has 320 homes and a population of more than 1,000.

Arrangements are being made to supply power to Wingaba, Nyaungkhn and Kanbe villages. The dam irrigated 1,530 acres of summer paddy in Myanaung and Ingapu townships, against the target of 1,490 acres. —Min Thit (MNA) ■



'BANK OF THE YEAR IN MYANMAR 2017'

Awarded by Financial Times (The Banker)

Kaba Aye Pagoda observes religious ceremony

A ceremony marking the successful offering of the paintings and gold gilding of the Thri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda was held there yesterday morning.

First, members of the Sangha led by the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee consecrated the pagoda.

Next, the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw administered the Five precepts to the congregation.

The Sayadaws then recited Parittas. The congregation presented offertories to the Sayadaws.

A member of the Pagoda Broad of Trustees U Hla Tun supplicated on religious matters, and the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw delivered a sermon.

Pious deeds were then shared. The pagoda was gilded with public donations.—Ko Ko Zaw ■



A Sayadaw delivering religious sermon at the ceremony marking the successful offering of the paintings and gold gilding of the Thri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda. **PHOTO: KO KO ZAW**

MSMEs products exhibition held

MAGWAY Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo said regional exhibitions and display of products from local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) could boost development in the region.

The Chief Minister was speaking during the 2nd MSMEs Regional Products Exhibitions and Competitions at Magway City Hall and Kyauk Taing Park in Magway City yesterday.

Firstly, Vice Chairman of MSME Development Working Committee and Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho delivered the opening speech followed by individual speeches by fellow committee members, such as Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Lwal, Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu.

Dr. Aung Moe Nyo said the event would help assess regional products and aid in the developmental progress of regions. "Our cooperation will help us achieve international standards," he said. Later, entrepreneurs and businesses from the Magway Re-



MSMEs products exhibition in progress. **PHOTO: THAN NAING OO**

gion submitted cash donations, which were accepted by the Union Minister and the Magway Region Chief Minister. They then conferred honorary certificates on the entrepreneurs.

After cutting the ceremonial ribbons, the participants entered Kyauk Taing Park to view the exhibition booths.

The combined regional exhibition of Magway, Rakhine and Chin MSMEs products began on 24 March and will continue today.

The Magway regional prod-

ucts included sesame, ground nuts, oil and palm furniture; Chin State products included traditional wares; while Rakhine State products included fishery products such as dried prawns, dried fish and other traditional wares.

More than 48 MSMEs have set up some 150 booths, while entrepreneurs from Shan State, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Yangon Region, Ayeyawdy Region and Nay Pyi Taw participated, as well.—Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe) ■

Local Magway Sterculia Gum product eyes possible export to Taiwan

THE second Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Regional Products Exhibition and Competition was held at Kyauk Taing Park and City Hall in Magway City on 24 March and will continue yesterday.

Samples of a local product made from the native Sterculia Gum was purchased by a merchant for possible export to the Taiwan market. The product

was sold at some Ks340,000 per viss, according to the market price in China. The Magway Region Sterculiaceae plantation has some 600,000 plants, and local farmers are eyeing the foreign market.

The Sterculiaceae plantation helps in environmental conservation and is a form of sustainable or green business.—Ko Thet (Upper Min Hla) ■



Taiwan is likely to buy Local Magway Sterculia Gum product. **PHOTO: KO THET (UPPER MIN HLA)**



PHOTO: WAI YAN LIN (IPRD)

Final day of ethnic festival held

A large number of people of various ethnicities visited the Ethnic Literature and Culture Development Festival in Taunggyi on the final day yesterday.

The festival, which started

on 21 March, included ethnic culture booths, departmental booths, book shops, traditional food stalls, and booths displaying ethnic costumes, utensils and food.

The booths were crowd-

ed with visitors the whole day.

During the paper reading session, 27 papers on ethnic literature and culture were read and documented.—Wai Yan Lin (IPRD) ■

Union Minister U Ohn Win attends 8th World Water Forum in Brazil

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environment Conservation U Ohn Win attended the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia, Brazil, which was held from 19 to 22 March.

The forum began on 19 March at Ulysses Guimaraes Convention Centre. President of World Water Council Prof. Benedito Braga and Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme Erik Solheim delivered the opening speeches.

In the afternoon, the state-level opening ceremony was held under the leadership of the president of Brazil at the Itamaraty Palace.

Following this, a high-level panel session on water and disasters was held, where Union Minister U Ohn Win discussed integrated water resources management to preserve and secure water resources, along with a combination of disaster



Union Minister U Ohn Win attends 8th World Water Forum in Brazil. PHOTO: MNA

risk reduction and water supply, sanitation and hygiene methods to reduce water-based disasters. He also mentioned Myanmar's agenda to cooperate with other countries in the water sector.

Later, the Union Minister took part in a ministerial round-table meeting on water for sustainable development.

A delegation led by the Union Minister attended the sec-

ond-day meeting, and read out the country's statement. The Union Minister then delivered an address at the citizen process session on achieving water security. Further, the Union Minister

attended a high-level session on integrated water resource management, and then attended a dinner hosted by the Australian embassy.

On 21 March, the union minister attended a meeting to upscale innovation for a water-secure Asia-Pacific and the synthesis of the Asia-Pacific regional process, as well as a follow-up session of the Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Myanmar in December 2017.

On 22 March, the union minister also attended a forum titled "Women – Perspectives and Challenges".

An exhibition of water products was held at the National Mane Garrincha Stadium and was attended by 35 countries.

At the 8th World Water Forum, the delegation led by the Union Minister held informal talks with delegations from Japan and Tajikistan.—Myanmar News Agency ■

New building for Rural Development Department opens in Myebon Township

THE new building for the Rural Development Department of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Myebon Township was opened yesterday.

At the opening event, Rural Development Department's township head U Ba Saw gave a report about the building construction and presented commemorative pennants to the Rural Development Department's head of the state and head of the district.

Then, the department's

head of state U Nay Htet Shein, head of MraukU District U Chit Maung and head of Myebon Township U Zarni Kyaw opened the building by cutting ribbon.

Also, the department's head of state and officials sprinkled the signboard with scented water.

Present at the event were Rural Development Department's head of the state, head of the district, head of the township, town elders and invited guests. —Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

SWRR Ministry provides Ks 216.99 million as social assistance



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye presents cash assistance to a disabled person. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, accompanied by officials, delivered an address during the ceremony to provide social assistance to persons disabled from mine injuries in Ottwin, Bago Region, yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said under the democratic principles, the disabled also have equal rights. Priority has been given to ensuring their rights by forming a national-level committee, in accordance with the law and rules. Soon, there will be a trust fund

to provide monthly cash assistance to the disabled. Currently, regions and states are providing aid to elderly persons, expecting mothers and children up to two years of age. The Union Minister then accepted a total fund of more than Ks88 million for 1,777 disabled persons and more than Ks59 million for matriarchal families. Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Min Oo gave the words of thanks.

In Kyaukkayi Township, the Union Minister met with persons disabled due to mine injuries. He said vocational science

training will be provided to them. The ministry will open township centres and take measures, in cooperation with the public, to provide support to the disabled. The Union Minister then presented Ks18.65 million to 373 disabled persons. He also presented cash assistance for the disabled — Ks34.5 million in Kyauktaga Township, and Ks7.4 million in Nyaunglebin, besides Ks8.37 million to matriarchal families. At the ceremony, the ministry provided some Ks216.99 million as social assistance. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Armed Forces Day live on TV

The military parade of the 73rd Anniversary Armed Forces Day will take place in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 March.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on MRTV and Myanma Radio beginning 5:30 am. —Myanmar News Agency

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edited.

Tourism and investment festival opened in Kawthoung

A tourism and investment festival, jointly organized by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Taninthayi Regional government was opened in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region yesterday morning.

First, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region Dr. Lei Lei Maw, Chief Minister of Kayah State U L Phaung Sho, Taninthayi Regional Minister for Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation U Myint Maung and the Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration U Aung Naing Oo formally opened the festival.

Afterwards, the Un-



Kawthoung in Taninthayi Region holds a tourism and investment festival. **PHOTO:MDN**

ion Minister gave an opening speech and the Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region extended

greetings. The Chief Minister presented commemorative gifts to the Union Minister, the

chief ministers, regional ministers and guests and Kawthoung District Deputy Commissioner U Nay Oo, flower baskets to traditional cultural dance troupes. The Union Minister and party then viewed round the booths on display at the hall.

The invited guests were also sent to beautiful islands in the sea to enjoy scenic natural beauties.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region Dr. Lei Lei Maw, Speaker of Taninthayi Region Hluttaw U Khin Maung Aye, chief ministers, regional ministers, diplomats, departmental officials, delegates from Myanmar Tourism Federation, hoteliers and invited guests from Thailand. —Myanmar Digital News ■



Visitors enjoying the beautiful scenery of islands and the sea. **PHOTO:MDN**

CRIME NEWS

Fire guts four homes in TadaU Township

A fire broke out in Gaungkwe Village, TadaU Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region, at midnight on Saturday, destroying four homes, according to a police report.

Investigators said the fire started in a wooden house owned by Saing Min Tun, 33. The blaze quickly spread to the neighbouring homes, but no persons or animals were hurt in the fire.

With the assistance of villagers, firefighters successfully extinguished the



flames within half an hour. Charges have been filed against the home owner for violating Section 285

of the Penal Code, which defines fire-related negligence and recklessness.—Ye Tint ■

Driver killed in single car crash in Wundwin

A 25-year-old driver was killed in a single car accident happened on Yangon-Mandalay road in Wundwin Township, Mandalay Region, on Saturday evening, according to a police report.

The 22-wheel truck loaded with 2,260 kegs of beer being driven by Nyein Zaw Ko, with one other onboard crashed into a tree between mile posts No. 356/7 and 357/0 because the driver lost control of his car.

The driver died on the spot at the sense while the passenger escaped injury in the accident.

Police filed charges against the driver Section 304 (a) of the Penal Code for reckless driving.

A police officer commented that a majority of road accidents occur due to violation of traffic rules, including careless and reckless driving.—Thein Kyaw Myint (Meiktila) ■



Muse 105 mile border trade zone. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Border trade value exceeds \$7.9 billion in current FY

THE value of Myanmar's border trade until 16 March this fiscal year (FY) reached US\$7.942 billion, recording an increase of \$515 million compared with the same period last FY, according to the statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

The total border trade value before the end of this FY included \$5.159 billion in exports and \$2.783 billion in imports. Compared with last FY, export earnings went up by more than \$430 million, while the import value increased by \$85 million.

This time last year, border trade was valued at \$7.427 billion. Myanmar conducts border trade with China through the

Muse, Lwejel, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung border points. The country has carried out border trade with Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee and Mawtaung border gates. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungdaw, whereas the country trades directly with India via the Tamu and Reed border gates.

Among all the gates, the Muse border gate sees the largest volume and value of total border trade, with an estimated value of more than \$5.4 billion this FY, followed by Myawady with \$858 million and Chinsh-

wehaw with \$554 million.

The value of border trade at the Chinshwehaw, Kengtung, Tachilek, Myawady and Tamu stations decreased this FY.

Myanmar largely imports consumer goods, intermediate goods, construction equipment, automobiles and capital goods mainly from China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Germany, France and Hong Kong. Its exports include agricultural products, fishery products, mining products, forest products and industrial goods.

Currently, some 80 per cent of the country's external trade is carried out via sea routes.—Swe Nyein

Capital goods imports down by \$270 million

THE import value of capital goods in the current fiscal year (FY) topped US\$6.294 billion, registering a decline of \$270 million compared with the same period last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

From last April to mid-March of this year, the private sector imported capital goods worth \$5.567 billion from international traders, which saw a decline in value by \$354 million, whereas the import of similar products by the public sector was valued at \$727

million against last FY, registering an increase in value by \$84 million.

According to the ministry's statistics, the country's total import value went up by \$1.636 billion this FY, despite a decrease in the import of capital goods.

Before the end of the 2017-2018 FY, Myanmar imported intermediate goods worth \$7.301 billion, while the value of consumer goods was \$4.223 Billion. Over the past 350 days of this FY, the government sector's imports were worth

\$1.023 billion, while the private sector bought \$16.795 billion worth of products from overseas traders.

Myanmar mainly trades with ASEAN members, the European Union member states, some island nations, Asian and African states, as well as a few western countries.

The overall value of trade between Myanmar and its international trade partners was \$31.667 billion, including \$13.848 billion in exports, as of 16 March.—Shwe Khine

Growers face losses as bumper onion crop lowers prices

ONION growers from Kyaukpadaung Township in the Mandalay Region are facing losses due to low market prices this harvest season, said U Nang Tin, an onion grower from Mongkon Village.

"We are facing high production costs this year, including expenses on raw materials and labour.

The farm labour wages have doubled this season. We have to pay women labourers Ks3,500 per head to pick up onions from the plantation,

while men receive Ks5,000 per head to transport the kitchen crop on bullock carts," said U Nang Tin.

A viss (3.6 pounds) of onions is currently sold for Ks700 in the domestic market, which is lower than the cost of production.

Despite a good yield, local growers were not able to reap significant profits last season, because onion prices were high after the harvest season, while growers had no stock for sale.—Ko Htein (Ngathayauk)

Freight transport business facing decline

FREIGHT transport service businesses are facing a slump, as the number of trips operated by coastal cargo vessels have more than halved, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on Friday.

Regarding the slump, U Yan Aung, head of the Coastal Cargo Vessels Association, said, "This sector reached its peak in the 2010-2011 fiscal year (FY). Since then, the situation has deteriorated.

There are few freight transport services from Kawthoung to Yangon. Thus, businesspersons are relying on road transport, though it is costlier. Ships are used to transport goods only on one-

way routes."

In the 2010-2011 FY, cargo ships transported 320,287 tonnes of goods 443 times. There were 77 member ships at that time. In the 2016-2017 FY, some 71 ships made 241 trips to transport 129,081 tonnes of goods.

According to the data available through late February, the association transported 1,880 tonnes of goods on the Yangon-Kawthoung route in three vessels, 2,385 tonnes on the Yangon-Myeik route in three vessels, 7,150 tonnes on the Yangon-Sittway route in 13 vessels and 1,140 tonnes on the Yangon-Dawei route in three vessels.—GNLM

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Greening project to benefit Rakhine people



Deputy Director U Thein Lwin inspects chain link weaving in Payarpaung Village, Kyauktaw Township. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**

THE Myaseinyaung Kyeywa project, a rural greening project covering 124 villages in Rakhine State, will be launched in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY), according to Rakhine State Rural Development Department.

Of the 124 villages, 50 are from Buthedaung, Maungtau and Yathedaung townships, and the project will be imple-

mented with a six-month budget.

"We are going to implement the project in Buthedaung, Maungtau and Yathedaung townships during a six-month period in the 2018-2019 FY.

However, the said three townships will be left out in the one-year budget, which covers 74 villages from 11 other townships," said U Nay Htet Shein

of the department.

"The government will provide a fund of Ks30 million for each unit of the project. It is not a loan, but a revolving fund. Normally, a unit has 80 villages," he added.

Priority will be given to villages that are poor and have the potential for farming, according to the rule of law. The funds



Homemade candles in Kyar Ma Tauk Village, Sittway. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**



Flower garden in Thein Tan Village, Sittway. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**

will be used for farming, fishery, rural electrification, production and vocational programmes.

In every village, an elected village committee will use the funds to disburse loans to the villagers. It will fix the loan amount, interest rate and rules.

Union-level, region-/state-level, district-level and township-level action commit-

tees and regulatory bodies will be set up to run the project systematically and prevent corruption or other misconduct.

The interest rate will be between 0.5 and 1.5 per cent. "It is much lower than market rates, which range from 5 to 10 per cent," he told reporters.

The project covers 17 townships of Rakhine State. ■

Tourists to be digitally tracked in Mandalay Thingyan

INTERNATIONAL tourists spending time in Mandalay during the Thingyan Festival will be recorded digitally said Assistant-Director U San Yu of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (Upper Myanmar Sub department-Mandalay).

Using digital technology can effectively record the number of foreign tourists so that the tourism sector can be developed consistently.

The Sub department will also distribute key chains to tourists in areas they often visit to take record of their numbers manually.

"If we can know the exact number of tourists that come in then we can build the necessary buildings and facilities for them and also effectively plan promotions for them," said U San Yu. The data will be collect-



Tourists participating in Thingyan Festival. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

ed and categorized based on their country, age, and gender orientation. "We have to make sure our traditional ways are not lost as we modernize the tourism industry," said U San Yu.

"In countries with successful tourism sectors, they've managed to keep their traditions so it attracts tourists who want to see this preserved culture," he said.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing house) ■

COZY WORLD park opens in PyinOoLwin

COZY WORLD recreational park was opened near Anisakan Airport in PyinOoLwin on 24 March.

Construction of the park began in October 2017 on the 5 acre plot of land. The park includes a waterslide, rope bridges, fields of strawberries, dragon fruits, grapes and other flowers said Ko Chan Nyein Aung, the owner.

"I want children to play around freely and for families to spend time together," said

Ko Chan Nyein Aung. He said there are plans to expand the park in the future if it is successful. He said all the fruits are organic and he allows visitors to pluck some but he sells more by the kilo. Entry fees to COZY WORLD are prices at Ks500 and opens everyday from 9am to 6pm. As commemoration of its opening, the park will have free entry for all of April.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing house) ■



COZY WORLD park in PyinOoLwin, entry free for all of April. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

Veteran journalists talk about state-owned newspapers

Khin Maung Htwe
PHOTO: ZAW GYI

VETERAN journalists who have worked for the state-owned media attended the second ceremony held in their honour by the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information in Yangon yesterday. Following is the interview with them.

U Thaw, 95, veteran journalist and founder of the Kyemon (the Mirror Daily)

I think the current state-owned dailies are not competing with each other. In our days, we competed with each other to ensure the papers are free of errors. The current state-owned dailies need to improve. To bring out a good paper, in essence and quality, one person is not enough.

Col Khin Maung Aye (Retd), Pen Name: Khin Maung Aye (Mandalay) Managing-Director (Retd), News and Periodicals Enterprise

The information covered in the newspapers should be correct and accurate. Correct news coverage makes newspapers a success. Media plays an important role in the development of a country.

Today, rumours and misinformation can be easily posted on social media.

However, the coverage of state-owned newspapers is in the hands of those who handle them.

The state-owned dailies can be successful if they pursue the correct path. In this democratic era, we are obliged to give correct information to the people. State-owned newspapers should include news and articles that



U Thaw.



Khin Maung Aye.
Khin Maung Aye (Mandalay)



U Myat Thu.
(Tatkatho Myat Thu)



U Tun Thar (Maung Ye Win).



U Ye Myint Pe Chief Editor (Retd),
the Kyemon and the Myanmar Alinn
dailies



U Hlaing Win Chief Editor (Retd),
Myanmar Alinn.



U Myint Swe, Chief Editor (Retd),
the Kyemon Daily.

quality of state-owned newspapers.

U Hlaing Win, Chief Editor (Retd), Myanmar Alinn

State-owned newspapers should not have a one-sided view, and they must know what information the people want. State-owned newspapers must convey the government's message, as well as provide information that people want. At the same time, the government should relax its involvement in the newsroom. If so, the quality of state-owned newspapers will improve.

U Myint Swe, Chief Editor (Retd), the Kyemon Daily

Newspaper operations are performed in limited time. Right decisions need to be taken to meet the deadline and quality. A chief-editor is obliged to maintain these balances. While working in the given limited time, members of a newsroom have to ensure they meet the deadline and correctness. So, the paper contains mistakes and errors sometimes. ■

can benefit the people.

U Myat Thu (Tatkatho Myat Thu)

I have been working in the journalism field for 61 years. State-owned media reflects the policy of the sovereign power.

It should not be owned by individuals, a party or an organisation.

The state-owned media should maintain its integrity and

prestige.

U Tun Thar (Maung Ye Win), 83

I took up journalism after independence. In 1957, the Kyemon (the Mirror Daily) came into circulation. The Kyemon opened a new chapter in the history of newspapers through its coverage. Today, state-owned newspapers should be closely scrutinised before sending them to the printing press. They contain

several mistakes these days. Editors must read more.

U Ye Myint Pe,

Chief Editor (Retd), the Kyemon and the Myanmar Alinn dailies

Members of the newsrooms of state-owned dailies should check, re-check and counter-check their steps. At the same time, superiors have released their hold on newspapers and given more rights to editors. I am not satisfied with the current

Former NPE staffs hold reunion near Shwedagon Pagoda

FORMER staff of News and Periodicals Enterprise-NPE paid respects to their elders who were octogenarians and above at a multipurpose hall near Shwedagon Pagoda where they held a reunion yesterday.

During the NPE-supported ceremony, the chairman of the NPE former staff's association retired Chief Editor of Kyemon Newspaper U Myint Swe delivered an opening

speech while the secretary of the association cum retired manager of the Kyemon Newspaper explained the aim of the ceremony.

Later respects were paid to their elders: Saya U Thaw, Saya Min Yu Wai, Saya U Hla Kyin, Saya Tatkatho Myat Thu, Saya U Khin Maung Aye, pen name in Khin Maung Aye (Mandalay) and Saya Sao Kai Pha by a group led by Vice Chairman of the association,

U San Nyein and retired Director U Hla Kyin by the representative of the old staffs and Chief Editor U Ye Myint Pe extended greetings. Afterwards responsible persons presented gifts to aged staffs with certificates of honour.

The association was founded in 2015 with funds from the committee members of the News and Periodicals Enterprise.—Zeyya



Former NPE staffs paying respect to veteran journalists. PHOTO:KHIN MAUNG WIN (KYEMON)

The importance of building mutual trust

TRUST is important between each and every individual and every society in the world. Without trust, there is no cooperation nor progress, which is why it is of paramount importance to establish trust first.

You cannot build trust just by asking the other party to trust you. It takes time to build mutual trust with deep understanding for each other and it also requires both sides to understand the nature of trust. In Pali, trust can be translated as "Thada" (loosely translated as faith) while in Burmese it consists of two phonemes "Yone Kyi." Let's see what they mean separately.

The first word "Yone" means a person has accepted that what they believe in has no impurity or lies. A person cannot half-believe in something as the other half will be filled with doubts. Only if the facts are right can you truly believe in something. The second part "Kyi" refers to clarity of mind which may arise from acts of charity or other good deeds.

Therefore, it only makes sense that we first help and support each other, have mutual understanding, grow tolerance and patience and put good deeds first before all else so that both sides have clarity of mind and peace of heart which will then naturally lead to peace.

People are more inclined to have clarity of mind than to fully believe in something. Even if something is a hundred per cent true, the ego, pride, and false beliefs can blind someone to the truth. Clarity can come with just a little faith such as when you help someone, an act of kindness, or when you work for the development of the people, the observers of these acts will feel calmness and clarity depending on their faith; which is why we should attempt to spread clarity first before we ask for belief.

Currently Myanmar is in need of trust all over the country, in each area and in each community. Without trust then all the grudges, hate, and conflicts will never end. The Union Government is working for national reconciliation and internal peace but it is a bit weak in building mutual trust at the moment.

The 15th meeting of the Union Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was held on 21 March this year. In the meeting there were comments that the Regional and State Level Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC-S) could not build mutual trust and understanding which led to undesired consequences.

Both sides need to be able to depend on each other for support and regional development through negotiations. It was said in the meeting that all stakeholders must be able to rely on each other to build mutual respect. Therefore, it only makes sense that we first help and support each other, have mutual understanding, grow tolerance and patience and put good deeds first before all else so that both sides have clarity of mind and peace of heart which will then naturally lead to peace. ■

MahaSaddhamma
Jotikadhaja,
Sithu Dr. KhinMaungN-
yunt

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day on March 8th had been most fittingly commemorated and celebrated across the world. Among several events, the most eye-catching and inspiring was the MacDonald chain of Fast Food Restaurants throughout the world which honoured and commemorated World Women's Day by upturning the letter "M" to become "W" to mean "Women".

Besides the UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres sent out his inspiring message pointing out that though women's status had been much improved and their human rights fulfilled more now than in the past, there still remains a wide area where they are not yet equal to men. He pin-pointed Asian and South-east Asian Countries where women, due to tradition, custom and religion are still not equal to men. Though women have to perform more duties than men within the family and in the human society, some duties are unpaid they are still considered "weaker gender" than men.

The writer of this Article is in agreement with the message of the UN Secretary-General. But he would like to draw his attention as well as that of the entire world to the true and real status of women in his country Myanmar throughout its history and culture.

First of all there has been no hard and fast rule of gender discrimination in Myanmar anthropologically, culturally and religiously. All Myanmar ethnic nationalities give equal status and treatment to men and women. Women are treated not as weaker sex but only as fairer gender. Fairer gender by own virtues has feminine modesty and feminine privilege to be respected and protected by men. Therefore certain jobs, works and places are regarded as not suitable for fairer gender. So These are marked only for men not because of discrimination

but out of respect and regard for fairer gender.

"The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world". The old saying is unquestionably true. It is more so in Myanmar Society. In Myanmar family, mother is the Queen whereas through father is the supporter of the family and mainly responsible, it is the mother who runs the whole family from kitchen to budget covering the whole range of daily life of the family. Father's income is given over to Mother who can make her own budget in a very pragmatic way for food, clothing, shelter, health and education of the family. Both father and mother are happy, neither feels superior or inferior to each other and children love both equally.

In culture and religion mother enjoys place of precedence over Father. Because mother keeps children in her womb and gives birth to them, we all genders owe much to our mothers. So we always give priority to mother.

Pay respects to mother first and to father next. Even Lord Buddha gave his homage and gratitude to his mother Queen Maha Maya who kept him in her womb and gave birth to him in human world. Now she was a deva Sandusitha in the Celestial World. Lord Buddha went up to her and delivered to her dhamma "Abhidhamma". In his Sutta [discourse] on social affairs of mundane life Lord Buddha prescribes rights and duties between parents and children, husband and wife, master and servant, teacher and pupils, king and people. Thus five duties of husband for wife are;

1. Do not neglect your wife
 2. Hand over your income to her
 3. No adultery
 4. Give her good clothing and adornment
 5. Be always kind to her
- Five duties of wife to husband are;



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA.ORG

band are;

1. Do domestic works
2. Save and keep income
3. No adultery
4. Give support to relatives and friends of both hers' and his
5. Do not be idle or lazy.

In Myanmar Buddhist family Parents are called in Pali Ma-ta-pitu မိဘ or မိဘ မိဘ မိဘ. In his Sutta [discourse] on social affairs of mundane life Lord Buddha prescribes rights and duties between parents and children, husband and wife, master and servant, teacher and pupils, king and people. Thus five duties of husband for wife are;

In possession, right of inheritance, in divorce male and female members of the family get equal shares and divisions. No greater share or division for male members. In divorce, equality of right is practiced. In Buddhist Social Law, you can never disown your children nor

of glory and greatness became exhausted.

There was the most outstanding and perhaps the only one reigning and ruling Queen Bayin Ma Gyi Shin Saw Pu of Mon Kingdom. She had to succeed to the throne of her father King Rajaderit a historic proof that Myanmar women are equal with man even to rule the country. As she was a pious lady, she wanted to retire from public life. But there was no qualified person in the royal family to become her successor not even her own son. So she requested Monk Dhammazedi to revert to laity to succeed her. The monk was a commoner but very learned in three affairs Lokha [Secular] Dhamma [Religion] and Raja [Ruling administration]. So she selected him and married him to her daughter to become member of royal family. Her choice proved wise and best. The entire country enjoyed a long period of peace prosperity and progress.

In modern history of Myanmar, Myanmar women never take inferior

place either in private or public life. In business, small, medium or great, in politics, in education, in freedom movement and in war, Myanmar women always take their role. There is no discrimination. There were women headmen [မိမိသမ္မတ] appointed by the King. These women village heads arrested the criminals, gave them due punishment by caning, beating, boxing such women village chiefs were physically stronger than average men.

In the struggle for National Freedom we have Thakhsin as well as Thakhsinma men and women young nationalists. When the first delegation was sent to the British Parliament in London in 1930 to demand separation of Myanmar from Indian Rule of British Empire, Ma Mya Sein, M.A. History was the only woman member. At that time women in England were

fighting for their right to vote let alone appearing in Parliament. Ma Mya Sein flawlessly delivered her speech for Separation. She became the apple of the eye of British women and the role model to emulate.

In our fight for national freedom women played no small role in sacrificing their own lives. In every profession, women are out numbering men. In Universities, medicine, Engineering, Foreign Services, many departments are man and by women. Daw Khin Kyi, Bogoyoke Aung San's wife and mother of Daw Aung San Su Kyi was the first women ambassador in the world.

In Buddhist religion there were both male and female monks -bhikkhus and bhikkhunis. Buddha's foster mother Gotami became Bhikkhuni Gotami. But now as the period for Bhikkhuni was over, we have nuns who are not bound by all rules of Vinaya, but who still enjoy other rights in Pariyatti, Patipatti and Pativada. They are entitled to religious awards, titles and privileges.

The writer agrees with the UN Secretary-General that. There are areas where gender discrimination still prevails. But the writer wishes to draw the attention of the world that Myanmar women are far advanced and Myanmar men hold no jealousy for it they are proud of it.

Daw Aung San Su Kyi, State Counsellor and the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, recently visited Australia to attend ASEAN-Australia Conference. She was honoured with 19 gun salutes then she inspected the Australian Guard of honour. Like her father Bogoyoke Aung San she is now leading the country to the 21st Century Panglong Conference to achieve ever-lasting national reconciliation and to establish democratic federal Republic. Her name stands a historic proof of gender equality in Myanmar Society. Aung San [her father's name Bogoyoke Aung San] Suu [her paternal grand mother's name Daw Suu and Kyi [her mother's name Daw Khin Kyi]. ■

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

APROPOS to the report, In a Horrifying NewTwist, Myanmar Elephants Are Being Poached For Their Skin (GNLM, March 21, 2018); it is sad to note that wild Asiatic elephant poaching is currently happening at an alarming rate across SE Asia due to high demands for elephant skin in the wildlife markets. The elephant skin is used for producing specialized jewellery in SE Asia and China.

The elephant skin is polished, and dyed; and processed into red colored beaded necklaces and bracelets fetching high prices in illegal international wildlife markets. The profit being very high is encouraging highly organized poaching groups operating in SE Asia to wipe out Asiatic wild elephant populations with special emphasis to Myanmar due to close proximity to the Chinese border.

The ever increasing demand for poached skins of wild Asiatic elephant is therefore putting heavy hunting pressure on their wild populations in several pockets of SE Asia. Several carcasses of Asiatic elephants have been detected across SE Asian forests with skins being harvested with professional precision alarming the local conservation authorities.

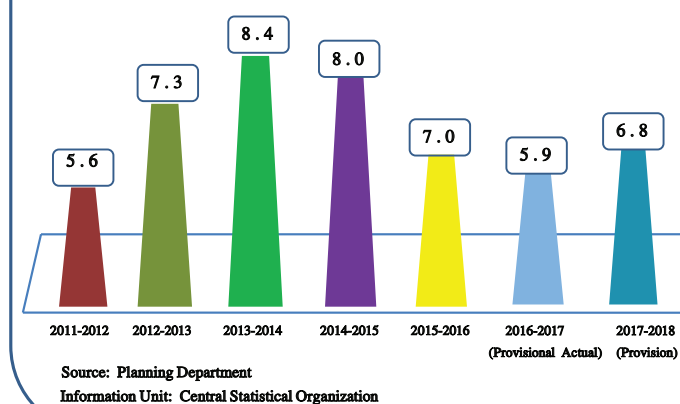
The bad news for many adjoining South Asian nations like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and India with significant wild populations of Asiatic elephants is that they may be the next target of professional poaching units operating in the region. The South Asian nations should be extremely cautious of the ground situations and take appropriate measures to protect their wild elephant populations.

The massacre of helpless wild Asiatic elephants for skin harvest may soon reach their shores and wipe out local wild populations resident within these countries or migrating across international borders unless concrete steps are being planned and executed right now. A Joint Conservation Initiative (JCI) for wild Asiatic elephants among South Asian nations may help adjacent countries in better tackling this new onslaught on local and indigenous wildlife better.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours

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ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT



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

Doctor's own diagnosis drives quest for a cancer cure

BETHESDA (UNITED STATES) — Christian Hinrichs knew his life had forever changed the day he thought he was pouring milk into a glass, but heard it splashing on the floor instead.

It was 2005, and the young cancer surgeon had just undergone the removal of his right eye because of a rare cancer, called ocular melanoma, which affects six in a million people.

Prior to the operation, his doctors had been optimistic that he'd make a full recovery and be able to return to practicing surgery.

"But the reality for me personally was after I lost the eye, it really threw off my depth perception," said Hinrichs.

"I knew I couldn't operate anymore. So I decided not to."

At the time, Hinrichs was 33, and had spent 13 years in training and in the operating theater.

Even before his own diagnosis, he'd decided to focus on cancer surgery.



Christian Hinrichs sometimes tells patients about his back story as a cancer survivor, if he thinks it will help them somehow. **PHOTO: AFP**

He also had an interest in cancer research, particularly the burgeoning field of adoptive T-cell

therapy, which involved genetically engineering the immune cells to recognize and attack cancer.

But after his eye was removed, he felt like a "square peg" that didn't fit anywhere.

"I was a surgeon who couldn't operate, and I was interested in oncology but I wasn't an internal medicine doctor," he said.

So he went back to school to train as an internal medicine doctor and oncologist, a process that took four years.

Going back to being a medical resident — while married with a one-year-old son at home — was "a huge drop down the ladder," he recalled. But he was more driven than ever to find another way to beat cancer, when surgery, chemotherapy and radiation failed. For Hinrichs, the fight was now personal.

"If the cancer ever came back in me at a site distant from the eye, I would be in that group of incurable patients," he said, explaining that his cancer would then be considered metastatic, and fatal.

The odds of a recurrence, for his type of cancer, were about 50 per cent. —AFP ■

Legal challenges threaten Sierra Leone presidential vote

FREETOWN — Sierra Leone is due to go the polls on Tuesday to pick a new president, but a court case could delay the vote following a campaign marked by violence and ethnic divisions.

The West African nation's 3.1 million voters will choose between the ruling All Peoples' Congress (APC) candidate Samura Kamara and opposition Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) contender Julius Maada Bio.

Bio, a former junta leader, won by just 15,000 votes in the March 7 first round, but failed to attain the 55 per cent of ballots needed to win outright, triggering a run-off. Turnout was over 80 per cent. With the vote on a knife edge, the National Grand Coalition (NGC) and Coalition for Change (C4C), who together took just over 10 per cent of votes, have not directed supporters to back either candidate.

A rally by the ruling party in Freetown on Saturday attracted few supporters following a High Court decision to put the vote on hold as it considers an election fraud complaint by an APC-linked



Julius Maada Bio and Samura Kamara will face off during the March 27 second round of the elections. **PHOTO: AFP**

lawyer. Saturday's order prevents the National Electoral Commission (NEC) from going ahead with the vote until "the hearing and determination of this court", which will sit again on Monday.

Kamara told AFP on the campaign trail he was "looking forward to the courts ensuring that NEC clears all the discrepancies and irregularities of the 7 March election before the run-off." President Ernest Bai Koroma, who cannot run again after

consecutive five-year terms, had anointed Kamara as his successor. International and domestic observers declared the vote credible, leading critics to accuse the APC of buying time through the courts.

The Carter Center, a US organisation which sent observers to the vote, said it was "not aware of any concrete evidence that would call into question the results of the 7 March elections." —AFP ■

Biodiversity worsens all over the world, in urgency to cope with

WASHINGTON — An intergovernmental ecological body said on Friday that the biodiversity, the essential variety of life forms on Earth, continued to decline in every region of the world, significantly reducing nature's capacity to contribute to people's well-being. Those alarming trends are endangering economies, livelihoods, food security and the quality of life of people everywhere, according to four peer-reviewed regional reports released by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Human-induced climate change, which affects temperature, precipitation and the nature of extreme events, is increasingly driving biodiversity loss and the reduction of nature's contributions to people, said Jake Rice, a co-chair of the Americas assessment.

In the Americas, the populations of species are about 31 per cent smaller than those was at the time of European coloniza-

tion, according the report. With the growing effects of climate change added to the other drivers, this loss is projected to reach 40 per cent by 2050, it says.

In Africa, by 2100, climate change could also result in the loss of more than half of African bird and mammal species, a 20 to 30 per cent decline in the productivity of Africa's lakes and significant loss of African plant species. The most recent sad example went to the death of the world's only remaining male northern white rhino in Kenya on Monday. Its death left only two female northern white rhinos on the planet. There have been some good news in Asia, however. Over the past 25 years, marine protected areas in the region increased by almost 14 per cent and terrestrial protected area by 0.3 per cent. Its forest coverage increased by 2.5 per cent, with the highest increases in North East Asia (22.9 per cent) and by South Asia (5.8 per cent). —Xinhua ■

France pays tribute to victims of jihadist attack

PARIS — Mourners in a rural French town rocked by a deadly Islamist attack will hold a mass on Sunday to pay tribute to the victims, including a policeman hailed a hero for offering himself in place of a hostage.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arnaud Beltrame, 44, was shot and stabbed after taking the place of a woman whom Radouane Lakdim had been using as a human shield during his attack Friday on a supermarket in the small town of Trebes.

A national tribute will be held at a later date for Beltrame, who President Emmanuel Macron said had “died a hero” and deserved “the respect and admiration of the whole nation”.

Following the worst jihadist attack of his presidency, Macron has called a meeting later this week of the security services responsible for monitoring individuals suspected of radicalisation.

Meanwhile, a mass will be held at 10:30 am (0830 GMT) Sunday in Trebes, where Lakdim carried out his final attack on a supermarket. The bishop of Carcassonne and Narbonne will celebrate mass in the Church of Saint-Etienne to honour the four killed and three wounded in the



The gunman had killed two people in the Super U supermarket before Lieutenant-Colonel Arnaud Beltrame offered to take the place of a hostage. **PHOTO: AFP**

attacks claimed by the Islamic State group. Lakdim, 25, had been placed on a watchlist, but ultimately authorities concluded the Moroccan-born French national did not pose a threat.

‘Horrible attack’

Investigators found notes at Lakdim’s home in the nearby

town of Carcassonne which referred to IS, a legal source said, including a hand-written letter in which he claimed allegiance to the jihadist group.

His girlfriend and a 17-year-old friend were being held in custody as investigators sought to understand events leading up to the attacks. Lakdim, who was armed

with a gun, knife and homemade explosive devices according to a security source, was shot dead as police moved in to end the siege of the Super U supermarket where he had holed up after a shooting spree in nearby Carcassonne. Earlier Friday the gunman had hijacked a car in Carcassonne and shot the two people inside,

killing the passenger and leaving the Portuguese driver in a critical condition. He also shot and wounded a police officer out jogging. Lakdim had already shot dead the supermarket’s butcher and a customer when Beltrame offered to take the place of a woman he had taken hostage. Lakdim, a petty criminal who was on a watchlist over fears he had been radicalised, shot and stabbed the policeman before he was himself killed by anti-terror officers. Beltrame died of his wounds early Saturday, becoming the fourth victim in the shooting spree. World leaders paid homage to the slain officer, with British Prime Minister Theresa May tweeting that his “sacrifice and courage will never be forgotten”.

US President Donald Trump denounced the “horrible attack” and Macron thanked him and the American people for their “solidarity”. “We honour the victims and the hero who gave his life to save others,” Macron wrote on Twitter. Beltrame’s brother Cedric said the policeman would have known all too well the risk he was taking.

“He certainly knew he didn’t stand a chance,” he said. “He gave his life for another.”—AFP ■

Quackery and superstition: species pay the cost

MEDELLÍN — A pinch of powdered chimpanzee bone, some gecko saliva, a dash of vulture brain. These are not the ingredients of a fairytale witches’ brew, but some of the prized substances helping drive the multi-billion dollar illegal trade in animal parts touted to cure anything from a hangover or asthma, to cancer and AIDS.

Along with better-known products such as rhino horn, pangolin scales, and tiger bone, dealers do a brisk trade in some more obscure ones too — dried seahorse, sloth claws, manta ray gills, and macaque embryos.

Many are creatures listed as endangered or threatened.

And while some of the products are key constituents in centuries-old traditional cures prescribed by healers in Asia and Africa, others are fictional cure-alls sold by cynical quacks,

experts say.

“We do see modern-day snake oil salesman,” John Scanlon, secretary general of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species told AFP.

While stressing “we will never criticize any traditional practices,” he condemned “people who are promoting certain wildlife products as having properties that have no association with traditional medicine.”

“They’re really preying on people in very vulnerable situations.”

These include peddlers of rhino horn to cure cancer — an unproven claim that has contributed to the decimation of these majestic beasts.

Sudan, the world’s last male northern white rhino, died in Kenya this week.

In 1960, there were an estimated 100,000 black rhino in

Africa — today there are fewer 28,000 rhinos of all species left in Africa and Asia, according to a 2016 UN World Wildlife Crime Report.

“The current rhino poaching crisis, which began around 2007... does have its origins in bogus medicinal use,” said Richard Thomas of TRAFFIC, which monitors wild animal trade.

No evidence

A surge in demand in Viet Nam is ascribed to a senior politician claiming in the mid-2000s that rhino horn cured his cancer.

“This has no basis in scientific fact, but was almost certainly the urban myth that led to the crisis,” Thomas told AFP.

As incomes have increased in Asia, so has demand for rhino horn, which can sell for tens of thousands of dollars per kilo.

Today, rich people use it as a



A black dehorned rhinoceros is followed by a calf at a game reserve in South Africa in 2012; the horn is prized as a cure to cancer, an unproven claim that has contributed to the decimation of the species. **PHOTO: AFP**

tonic, even for hangovers, and as a display of wealth.

“And although there is a popular myth in Western society (that) rhino horn is used as an aphrodisiac in Asian culture, it was never prescribed as such — ironically, it has now taken on such a use in Viet Nam,” said Thomas.

Now banned in China, Rhino horn originally was prescribed by traditional healers as a treatment for fever.

Some scientific studies have shown that it is somewhat effective

for this purpose, though not more so than aspirin.

Other traditional medicines have been more successfully assimilated by westerners.

Bear bile was found to contain an ingredient called ursodeoxycholic acid, effective in treating a liver disease. It is now produced synthetically. Similarly, the antimalarial artemisinin, was originally extracted from the wormwood plant, and an ingredient of the African Cherry tree is used to make prostate medicine.—AFP ■

Seven climbers fall from mountain ridge in central Japan

NAGANO — Seven climbers fell from a mountain ridge in central Japan on Sunday, leaving four with non-life threatening injuries and three showing no vital signs, police said.

The incident occurred on the south ridge of Mt. Amida in the Yatsugatake mountain range straddling Nagano and Yamanashi prefectures. All seven have been taken off the mountain, police said. The incident came to light after another climber contacted the police around 8:35 a.m.

The seven belonged to the same group from the Kansai region in western Japan, the police said. At the time of the accident, they were heading toward the 2,805-meter peak of Mt. Amida and were roped together.

A local alpine guide said the route they had taken was one used by experienced climbers. As it had been snowing a few days ago, the area remains under snow, necessitating the use of winter clothing and gear, the guide said.—Kyodo News ■

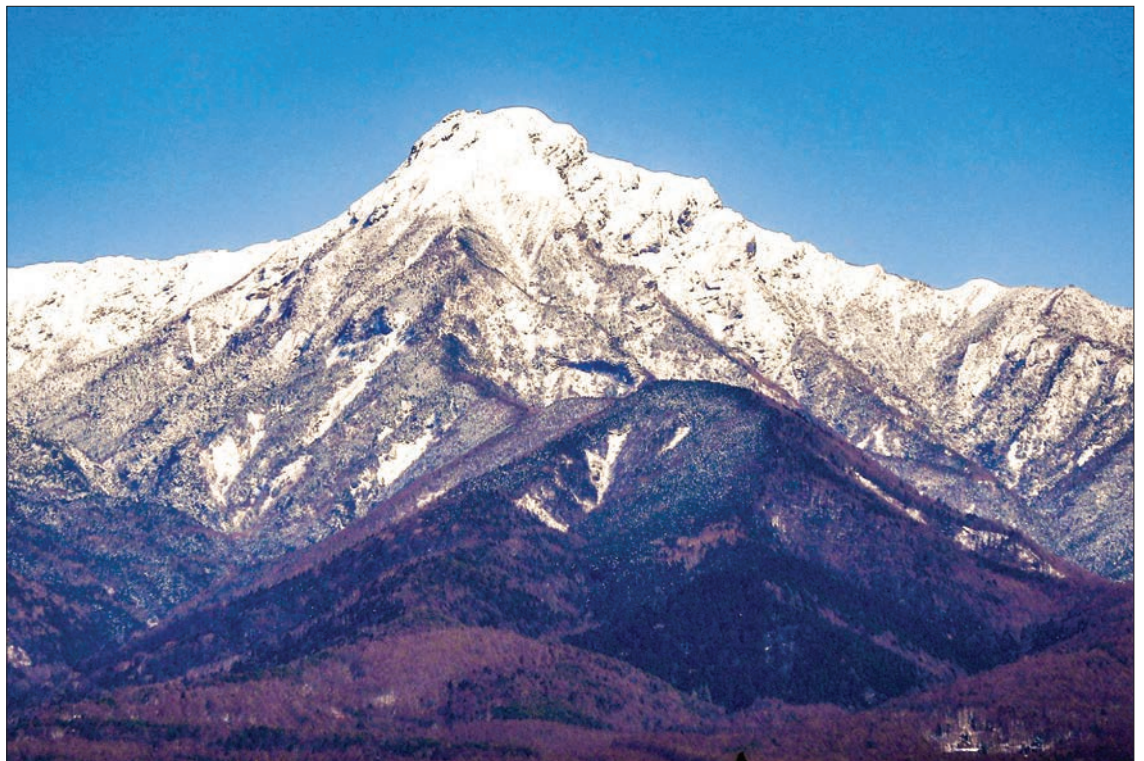


Photo taken on 25 March 2018, shows Mt. Amida in the Yatsugatake mountain range straddling Nagano and Yamanashi prefectures in central Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

World cities go dark as Earth Hour climate campaign circles globe

PARIS — The Sydney Opera House, the Eiffel Tower and Moscow's Red Square were among the world landmarks to go dark Saturday, as part of a global campaign to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change.

Earth Hour, which started in Australia in 2007, is being observed by millions of supporters in 187 countries, who turned off their lights at 8:30 p.m. local time in what organisers describe as the world's "largest grassroots movement for climate change".

"It aims to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the environment and wildlife," Earth Hour organiser WWF Australia chief Dermot O'Gorman told AFP.

In Paris, the Eiffel Tower plunged into darkness as President Emmanuel Macron urged people to join in and "show you are willing to join the fight for nature". "The time for denial is long past. We are losing not only our battle against climate change, but also our battle against the collapse of biodiversity," he said on Twitter.

Moscow's Red Square also fell dark and the Russian section of the International Space Station dipped its lights, the Ria Novosti news agency said.

Images from across Asia showed buildings including Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers, as well as the famous harbour skylines of Hong Kong and Singapore, blacking out to mark the oc-



Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House went dark for an hour Saturday to kick off a global campaign to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change. **PHOTO: AFP**

casion. New York's Empire State Building emitted a "faint sparkle" to mark the hour.

And in Mexico City major monuments switched off their power including the Angel of Independence, while Colombia's third-largest city Cali saw activists light candles to form the "60+" logo. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the event "comes at a time of huge pressure on people and planet alike".

"Resources and ecosystems across the world are under assault. Earth hour is an opportunity to show our resolve to change."

- Threat of extinction -

With global temperatures the highest on record, O'Gorman said this year's theme was the impact of climate change on biodiversity and plant and animal species.

"More than half of plant and animal species face local extinction in some of the world's most naturally rich areas in biodiversity by the turn of this century if we continue along the current path that we are trending in terms of global warming," he said.

Species at risk include Australia's green turtles, black-flanked rock wallabies and koalas, as well as the Adelie penguin colonies in Antarctica, the conservation group said in a report it commissioned that was published in the science journal Climatic Change.

The analysis, released last week, said key biodiverse sites around the world projected to be most affected by localised extinction include the Amazon, the world's largest tropical rainforest, and southern Africa's Miombo Woodlands.—AFP ■

40% of surveyed Japan firms plan to hire more graduates in FY 2019

TOKYO — Nearly 40 per cent of surveyed major Japanese companies plan to hire more graduates in fiscal 2019 than the previous year, a recent Kyodo News survey showed, underscoring companies' positive recruitment stance amid earnings gains and a labor shortage.

In the survey of 112 companies, including Toyota Motor Corp. and Sony Corp., more than half of the surveyed firms said they find it is becoming "difficult" to secure necessary human resources.

Asked about effective countermeasures, 59 firms cited "creating work environments friendly to women" while 37 firms said hiring foreigners would be one such measure.

The survey carried out for about a month from late February showed that 82 firms have already set recruitment plans for new graduates for the year starting in April 2019.

Of them, 32 firms, or 39 per cent, said they will increase hiring from that in the previous year, compared with 27 per cent in a survey for fiscal 2018. Meanwhile, 39 firms said they will maintain their employment

level and 11 firms said they plan to cut hiring.

Among companies with a proactive approach toward recruitment are diaper maker Unicharm Corp., which plans to more than double the number of fresh graduates it will hire in fiscal 2019 to 125, and Japan Airlines Co., which is planning to employ 690 fresh graduates, up from 589 the previous year.

In contrast, Fujifilm Corp. and Fuji Xerox Co. as well as NEC Corp. plan to cut recruitment as part of their restructuring efforts.

Companies in Japan are facing an increasingly tough race to secure necessary workforce due to a decreasing working-age population, and university graduates with special skills, such as those with intimate knowledge about artificial intelligence and other advanced information and technology are particularly in high demand.

Of university students expected to graduate this spring, 91.2 per cent had secured a job as of 1 February, marking the highest reading since 2000 when relevant data became available.—Kyodo News ■

Tearful Syrians in rebel enclave begin new evacuation

DOUMA — Weeping Syrians boarded buses to leave a ravaged pocket of Eastern Ghouta on Sunday, in a new wave of evacuations to clear another part of the former rebel bastion.

Five weeks since the Syrian regime launched an all-out assault on Ghouta, it holds more than 90 per cent of the onetime opposition stronghold on the edge of Damascus.

To help it capture the rest, key government backer Russia has mediated talks with various rebel groups to negotiate withdrawals from the three remaining pockets.

One area was emptied under such a deal in recent days and evacuations began late Saturday for a second part, held by the Islamist Faylaq al-Rahman rebel faction.

That agreement is set to see some 7,000 rebels and civilians bussed from the towns of Arbin and Zamalka and the district of Jobar to the rebel-dominated province of Idlib in northwestern Syria. After hours of delay, around 980 of them quit Ghouta on Saturday night aboard 17 buses and several ambulances.

They arrived in part of Hama province near the border with Idlib on Sunday morning.

Fresh evacuations were expected on Sunday.



Syrian paramedics carry a wounded man upon his arrival in the village of Qalaat al-Madiq, north of Hama, on 25 March 2018, after he left the Eastern Ghouta enclave under an evacuation deal. **PHOTO: AFP**

Devastated Syrian civilians and rebel fighters dressed in black gathered in the early morning in the main streets of Arbin, AFP's correspondent there said.

They carried duffel bags and dragged suitcases stuffed to the brim as they shuffled past ruined buildings. By mid-morning, around 20 empty buses and ambulances had entered the town, parking at a large roundabout.

Fighters and civilians began to board, bidding tearful goodbyes to their home towns before

they headed to opposition territory further north.

'Destroyed my future'

Hamza Abbas, an opposition activist in the nearby town of Zamalka, told AFP he was planning to board the buses too.

"People are very sad about leaving their homes, their land, their childhood memories and the place where they spent the best days of their childhood," he said.

"They have no money, no houses, no furniture or even clothes to take with them because

of this bombardment."

As part of Faylaq al-Rahman's deal with Moscow, residents had been offered the option to stay in Zamalka and Arbin as the area fell under regime control.

But Abbas said he would not. "I decided to leave Ghouta because how am I supposed to live alongside someone who killed my family, my siblings, my friends? With someone who destroyed me, my life, and my future?"

Since it began on 18 February, the Ghouta assault has left more than 1,600 civilians dead and thousands more wounded, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Even before the onslaught, the enclave's 400,000 residents had suffered for half a decade under a crippling regime siege that severely limited their access to food, medicine and other basic goods.

The Syrian government has used siege tactics followed by heavy bombardment and negotiated settlements to recapture swathes territory it had lost to rebels. Damascus and Moscow have applied this "leave or die" strategy to Ghouta as well, smashing the enclave into three isolated pockets before seeking separate evacuation deals for each one.

Under the first Russian-brokered deal in the region, hardline Islamist group Ahrar al-Sham agreed to quit the town of Harasta.

More than 4,500 people, including over 1,400 fighters, left Harasta for Idlib over the course of Thursday and Friday.

Talks are also underway for a deal over the third and final pocket of Ghouta, held by Jaish al-Islam, which includes the region's largest town, Douma.—AFP ■

10 killed in suspected cattle rustling in northern Kenya

SAMBURU — At least ten people were killed and several others injured on Saturday in a clash between herders and suspected cattle rustlers in Samburu County, police confirmed on Sunday. Samburu County Commander Alfred Agengo said the attack occurred at around 9 am. Saturday when a group of herders grazing livestock were ambushed by heavily armed men at Lopurio area.

Agengo said no livestock

was stolen during the deadly clash after unknown raiders attacked herders as they grazed cattle in the area. Police in the area said locals teamed up with National Police Reservists and repulsed the attackers, killing six of them.

Four herders were also believed to be killed. "The aggressors were scattered and ran for their safety ... Patrol has been intensified within the area and the situation is still tense,"

Agengo said.

The suspects are believed to be from neighboring West Pokot and Baringo counties. Lopurio is located about 30 km away from Marti town along Maralal-Baragoi road.

Clashes between the rival cattle herding pastoralists are common in northern Kenya, with herders often carrying guns to protect their animals, but the recent fighting has been unusually heavy.—Xinhua ■

Three killed, seven injured in suicide attack in W. Afghanistan

HERAT — One Afghan civilian and two assailants were killed and seven people wounded after an explosion ripped through a mosque in the western province of Herat on Sunday, a provincial police spokesman said.

The blast occurred at midday after two suicide bombers tried to enter Nabi-e-Akram Mosque in Chahr Su locality, Abdul Hai Walizada, an officer of Police District 7 of the city, told Xinhua.

One terrorist detonated his explosive jacket near the entrance of the building after a security guard identified and intercepted the attackers, he said, adding that the second assailant was shot dead by the security guard.

Scores of people were offering prayers when the attack took

place. "Police and the rescue team reached the site following the attack and all the injured were rushed to Herat Regional Hospital for treatment," said the police officer.

Security forces have cordoned off the area for precautionary measures.

No group has claimed responsibility yet for the attack, but the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group attacked several mosques in Herat over the past years.

The Afghan civilians continue to bear the brunt of armed conflicts as more than 3,430 civilians were killed and over 7,000 others injured in conflict-related incidents in 2017, according to figures released by the United Nations mission in the country.—Xinhua ■

South Korea's passenger ship runs aground off southwest coast, injuring six

SEOUL — A South Korean passenger ship ran aground Sunday afternoon off the southwest coast, injuring six people, Yonhap news agency and local broadcaster YTN reported citing the coast guard. The Pink Dolphin passenger vessel, carrying

187 passengers and five crew members, ran ashore at about 3:47 pm local time (0647 GMT) in waters off Sinan county in South Jeolla province. Six people were reportedly wounded, but no fatality has been reported yet.

The vessel was stuck on a

reef to avoid a fishing vessel.

A rescue operation was under way to move the passengers into other ships near the scene. The presidential Blue House began operating a crisis management center to deal with the maritime accident.—Xinhua ■

Yangon hosts puppet performers from nine countries

FOR the first time, Yangon hosted a puppet performance show with participants from nine countries at the National Theatre in Dagon Township yesterday.

The event was coordinated by the Ministry for Religious Affairs and Culture and facilitated by the Myanmar Thabin Association (Central) while the Myanmar Puppeteer Association headed the programmes. Puppet performers from India, Israel, Thailand, France, Australia, China, USA, and Indonesia participated in the event.

Myanmar Puppeteer Association Chairperson Daw Ma Ma Naing said they performed traditional string puppets with experts from the National University of Arts and Culture, Yangon. She said each country had a different way of performing.



Puppet show with participants from nine countries being held at the National Theatre in Dagon Township. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

"Thailand uses stick puppets and shadow puppetry and European countries include human per-

formances too," said Daw Ma Ma Naing.

Myanmar puppeteers per-

form their string puppets with their musical ensemble (saing waing), France performed a

puppet in the shape of a man playing a guitar; India's puppets performed with stick puppets and shadow puppets, China performed with human puppets and dances, and Europe performed with a mix of puppets and human performers.

Daw Khaing Khaing from Mayangone Township said the performance from foreign countries were spectacular but different. She said she wants Burmese puppet performances to be more widespread in the future.

The Myanmar Puppeteer Organization has performed three times at the World Puppet Festival in France, and also in the US, Finland, Germany, Japan, Laos, Singapore, Cambodia, the Philippines and twenty other countries around the world.—Zaw Gyi ■

Hollywood femme-fatale Hedy Lamarr's amazing double life

LOS ANGELES — Once proclaimed "the most beautiful woman in the world," Hedy Lamarr is remembered as the silver screen siren who scandalized show business in a 1930s nude scene.

The raven-haired actress, who died at the turn of the millennium at age 86, wrote in her memoirs that "any girl can be glamorous: all you have to do is stand still and look stupid."

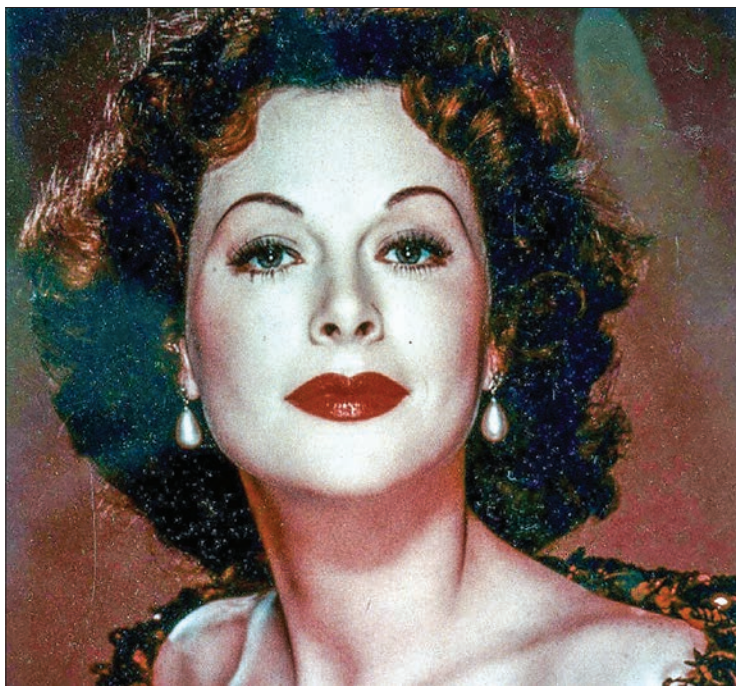
In reality, as a new PBS documentary reveals, Lamarr's sultry beauty stood in the way of her getting the credit she deserved as an ingenious scientist and engineer whose inventions helped revolutionize modern communications.

Lamarr never publicly talked about her life outside the movies, and her family thought her story had died with her, but in 2016, never-before-heard tapes of the actress telling her own life story emerged.

"People have the idea that I'm sort of a stupid thing. I never knew I looked good to begin with, because my mother wanted a boy named Georg," she says on one of the tapes.

"Unfortunately I didn't become that and she wasn't too thrilled about it. I was different, I guess. Maybe I came from a different planet, who knows? But whatever it is, inventions are easy for me to do."

Combining the recordings with intimate reflections from her children, closest friends, family



Austrian-born actress Hedy Lamarr, shown in an undated photo, was a Hollywood star whose sultry beauty stood in the way of her getting the credit she deserved as an ingenious scientist and engineer.

PHOTO: AFP

and admirers, "Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story" explores Lamarr's true legacy as a technological trailblazer.

The film, co-executive produced by Oscar winner Susan Sarandon, attempts to shine a light on the atmosphere that created the disconnect between her brilliance and beauty.

Sultry temptress

An Austrian Jewish emigrant who invented a covert communications system to try to help defeat the Nazis, Lamarr was ignored and told to sell kisses

for war bonds instead.

It was only toward the end of her life that tech pioneers discovered that it was her concept that is now used as the basis for secure WiFi, GPS and Bluetooth technologies.

In 2016, former Forbes journalist Fleming Meeks discovered several tapes of a 1990 phone interview with Lamarr, providing a rare insight into her private thoughts.

"Oh my God, she was the best-looking movie star that ever lived. She became my inspiration," veteran filmmaker Mel

Brooks says in the documentary.

"I don't know whether it's true, but you hear things. I heard that she was a scientist."

Born in Vienna in 1913, Lamarr was an intuitive tinkerer as a child, always interested in mechanical things and an inveterate seeker of knowledge.

She won a few minor roles when, still going by her real name Edy Kiesler, she made a fleeting appearance without her clothes in the Czech film "Extase."

Pope Pius XI denounced the movie, Hitler banned it, and the offending scenes were excised from most European and American versions.

She married millionaire arms manufacturer Fritz Mandl, entertaining top businessmen and politicians including Mussolini and Hitler, but grew tired of life as a trophy wife and fled to Hollywood. Meaty roles eluded the actress — although she famously turned down Ingrid Bergman's role in "Casablanca" — and she became increasingly typecast as the sultry temptress in such movies as "Algiers" (1938) and "Lady of the Tropics" (1940).

In 1941, Lamarr and an avant-garde composer, George Antheil, filed a patent based on "frequency-hopping," in which a radio transmitter and its receiver jump from one frequency to another to prevent their signal being intercepted.

Their gadget was aimed

at developing radio-controlled torpedoes for the US Navy that could not be jammed by German warships.

But the idea was so far ahead of its time that the Navy didn't grasp its importance and it took years to reach fruition.

'Derailed by her beauty'

Today, frequency-hopping is the basis for quick and secure communications in espionage, the military, mobile phones and the internet. But Lamarr never gained a penny for her stroke of inventive genius.

"In a different era, she might very well have become a scientist. At the very least, it was an option that was derailed by her beauty," says film historian Jeanine Basinger.

Lamarr had faded from fashion by the time Cecil B. de Mille chose her to play the most famous femme fatale of all in "Samson and Delilah" (1949), the biggest box office hit of her career.

She was seen as difficult to work with, however, and the upturn in her fortunes fell away as quickly as it had begun.

An attempt to revive her career, and her ailing bank balance, with a 1966 autobiography largely failed. Along the way, Lamarr was acquiring and losing husbands — she had a total of six — and by the late 1950s could count more divorces than film roles.—AFP ■

Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden, Safari Park and Nay Pyi Taw Planetarium to celebrate 10th anniversary

THE 10th anniversary of Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden, Safari Park and Nay Pyi Taw Planetarium will be celebrated from 31st March to 1st April.

The two day event will offer a wide range of entertainment programmes to the visitors, including circus performance and magic show. Myanmar Idol finalist M Zawrein and other new vocalists will perform entertainment to the visitors together with Excellent Music Band from 8 am to 5 pm on 1st April free of charge.

Playgrounds will also be available for the kids. The visitors can get knowledge about animals, plants as well as environmental conservation by participating in the event. The admission fees for the zoological garden are set at Ks. 1,000 per adult and Ks. 500 per child.

With a collection of 39 species of mammals, 35 species of birds and 9 species of reptiles, the zoo draws thousands of visitors annually.—Myanmar Digital News ■



Photo was taken in front of the Nay Pyi Taw Planetarium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MDN



A young buddhist novice walks along the road near by a monastery in Burma

Tourists flock to famous Thingaza Monastery in Mandalay

Situated to the west of Daewon Ward in Chanayethazan Township in the Mandalay Region, the Thingaza Monastery is popular among international tourists because of its impressive ancient architectural designs.

There are several places of interest in Mandalay, the last royal capital of Myanmar, including monuments, historic buildings and ancient pagodas. Thingaza Monastery is one of the ancient wooden monasteries in the region, besides the Golden Palace Monastery, Shweinbin Monastery, Bhamo Monastery and Mahaminhtin Monastery.

Buddhist monks still live in

the monastery, despite its poor condition. The monastery was built after the establishment of the Mandalay palace. King Mindon donated it to the Thingaza Sayadaw in 1223 ME. Ancient Buddha statues and other religious objects are kept in the monastery. The Thingaza Monastery is teeming with foreign travellers every day, as the old wooden building has something that can attract everyone, whereas photographers and young novices are interested in the building and its natural environment that make for a good photograph, said a local tour guide.—Nway Nadi (Myitnge) ■

BFM, Smile Asia to bring smiles to over 120 ethnic children

The KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar (BFM) foundation and Singapore-based Smile Asia Medical Mission launched a free cleft lip and cleft palate operation programme for ethnic children on 25 May in Taunggyi.

The programme is the fourth mission to provide free medical care for children in Myanmar, which will be carried out at the Women and Children Specialist Hospital in Taunggyi from 25 to 31 March.

The opening ceremony of the mission was attended by Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut, Ambassador of Singapore to Myanmar Ms Venessa Chan, officials of Shan State's Public Health Department, Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr. Zaw Myint Nang, Chairperson of the KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar foundation Daw Nan Lang Kham and other volunteers.

The programme will change the lives of more than 120 children from Shan, Lisu, Palaung, Pao, Kachin, Kayin,

Kayah, Rakhine, Bamar and Chin ethnic races from the regions and states.

In the previous three programmes, more than 281 children in need of corrective surgery received successful operations.

In the fourth mission, surgeons and nurses from Myanmar and the United States, England, Japan, China, Singapore,

Malaysia, the Philippines and Bhutan will carry out medical check-ups and surgeries.

To make these operations as accessible as possible to disadvantaged children, who may not be able to seek help otherwise, the travelling, accommodation and food expenses of the patients will be borne by KBZ Bank and BFM. —Thura Lwin (Eco) ■



A father registers his cleft lip and palate child to the BFM's official. PHOTO: THURA LWIN (ECO)

Members of Wheel Chair Train for Peace visit Taninthayi Region to support peace process



Members of Wheel Chair Train for Peace, a group of physically challenged people are seen in Dawei, along with welcomed people. PHOTO: MDN

Members of Wheel Chair Train for Peace, a group of physically challenged people from the school for the blind (Khawechan), arrived in Dawei, Taninthayi Region yesterday morning.

They were welcomed by departmental officials and local people at a rural bridge in Shin Mokhtee Village in Dawei where one of the leaders of the group extended greetings. The group members then proceeded to Da-

wei and they were served with food by local people.

In the evening, the group members performed entertainment to local people, recited peace poems, gave talks on peace process and collected signatures and the voices from local people who want genuine peace at DDPC Stopping Center on Kannar Street. On 26 March, the group members will erect a signboard in front of No (1) Ba-

sic Education High School and entertain local people with performance.

On 27 March, the group members will travel to Maungmakan Village in Launglon Township. They will depart to MaungMelshaung Village from Maungmakan Village on 28 March, according to a source from the Information and Public Relations Department.—Myanmar Digital News ■

MFF Futsal teams in momentum

KyawZin Lin

There are 20 teams left in the MFF Futsal Open Cup 2018 and they have to struggle for reaching the quarterfinal matches from knock out stages that will start today.

All the futsal matches are being played at the Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon.

Among the 20 teams, 12 teams are waiting in the knockout stages while 8 teams will play the play-off match today.

In today's play-off matches, Myo Chit Youth will play against MIC Legend, Myoma Hla Thidar

will play against UM FC, VUC Youth will play against Dala United FC and MMU Exclamation will play against Best Friends FC.

The winner team from today's matches will meet with MIC, Bothahtaung, Titans XII and Comrade futsal teams in the next knock out stages.

All winner teams will meet in the Quarter final matches which will be hosted on 31 March.

The semifinal matches will play on 2 April and final matches and the third place fighting matches will be on 4 April according to an official from MFF Futsal. ■

MFF, German Coach GerdZeise agree to terminate the contract

THE Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar national team's German Head Coach Mr. GerdZeise mutually agreed to terminate the contract with the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) today.

GerdZeise's firing was nine months ahead of the end of his contract with the Myanmar Football Federation after My-

anmar lost to Kirgizstan 1-5 in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualifier at Incheon Football Stadium in Incheon, South Korea on 22 March 2018. The loss to Kirgizstan meant Myanmar failed to take part in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup to be held in United Arab Emirates from 5 January to 1 February.

The Myanmar Football Federation appointed Assistant Coach U Zaw Win Tun as temporary head coach who is an AFC A License holder for the match against Macau in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualifier. Myanmar is scheduled to play against Macau as their last qualifier at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon at 6 pm on 27 March, 2018. Myanmar football fans will have a chance to enjoy the match between Myanmar and Macau free of charge.

—By Kyaw Htike Soe ■



Football Coach GerdZeise. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**



Myanmar U-15 national football team seen with bronze and fair play medals in Hong Kong. **PHOTO:MFF**

Myanmar U-15 wins bronze with fair play award in Jockey football Tourney, Hong Kong

Kyaw Zin Lin

Myanmar U-15 national football team won the third prize along with fair play award in Jockey Club International Youth Invitational Football Tournament 2018 after beating Singapore U-15 team in yesterday's third place fighting match at Po Kong Village Road Park Football Pitch in Hong Kong.

The tournament was

launched from 23 to 25 March. All matches were single round robin basic. Each match lasted 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes, with an interval of 15 minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.

Myanmar U-15 was placed together with host Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore. Myanmar played to a scoreless draw

with host Hong Kong U-15 team on 23 March, lost to Malaysia U-15 with a score of 1-7 on 24 March and won against Singapore U-15 with a score of 1-0 on 25 March.

Except Myanmar, the bronze winner, India defeated host Hong Kong of China with 4-2 and claimed the Champion title while the losing host team was pleased with second place in the tourney. ■

Ji grabs share of Kia Classic lead as Kerr collapses

LOS ANGELES — South Korea's Ji Eun-hee fired five birdies in a five-under par 67 on Saturday to share the LPGA Kia Classic third-round lead with compatriot Kim In-kyung and American Lizette Salas.

The trio's 11-under total of 205 put them one stroke in front of a group of four players headed by American Cristie Kerr — who started the day with a five-shot lead but carded a three-over par 75.

"The conditions were rough so I just tried to keep the ball on

the fairway," Ji said. "It (course) is a challenge. I keep trying to change my swing. I am starting to feel more comfortable with my new swing."

Kerr was tied on 206 with Taiwan's Hsu Wei-Ling (68), Sweden's Caroline Hedwall (70) and fellow American Cindy LaCrosse (68). A day after a sparkling 64, Kerr had three bogeys and a double-bogey six at the par-four 15th — where she hooked her drive into the trees.

Kerr, 40, had just two birdies on the Aviara Golf Club course

where she won in 2015.

"I just didn't have it," Kerr said Saturday. "I've got to go work on my game a little bit."

On a tightly bunched leaderboard, another four players were tied on 207.

Sweden's Anna Nordqvist joined that group with a six-under 66 that included seven birdies. She was level with Spain's Carlota Ciganda (69), South Korean Lee Jeong-eun (70) and American Kris Tamulis (67).

Another five players were tied on 208.—AFP ■



South Korea's Ji Eun-hee fired five birdies in a five-under par 67 to share the LPGA Kia Classic third-round lead. **PHOTO: AFP**