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**SUNDAY
SPECIAL**



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The endangered golden deer species is found in Myanmar, mostly in Chatthin and Shwesattaw Wildlife sanctuaries. **PHOTO: MNA**

Golden deer population in Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary increases

THE golden deer population in Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary in Kantbalu Township has increased from 728 last year to 889 in 2018, said an official from the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forest yesterday.

The *Rucervus eldii* (golden deer) census was conducted in the sanctuary by officials of the ministry, wildlife conservation-

ists and volunteers from 28 to 30 March in the three zones of the sanctuary.

The golden deer is a rare species of deer found in Myanmar, mostly in the Shwesattaw and Chatthin wildlife sanctuaries.

The number of golden deer was on the decline from 2014 to 2016.

To conserve the endangered species, the staff of the ministry created a salt field for them during the rainy season, planting rice and corn, and constructed small reservoirs in accordance with plans for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

During the survey, the conservationists also discovered

trees being illegally cut and forest products being smuggled, said the official.

Myanmar environmental conservation and forestry organisations, along with local residents, are advocating for the prevention of the extinction of golden deer at the Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary.

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Ethnic minority rights in Rakhine reviewed

A WORKSHOP on the rights and freedoms of ethnic minorities in Rakhine State was held yesterday at Thazin Hall in Sittway Town, Rakhine State.

Speaking at the workshop, Deputy Minister of the Office of the State Counsellor, U Khin Maung Tin, Vice Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, said the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State suggested that authorities review regional orders and instructions on the rights of ethnic minorities in accordance with the law.

U Khin Maung Tin yesterday urged representatives of the Mro, Khami, Daing Net, Chak-kama, Chin, Maramargyi and Kaman ethnic minorities to give suggestions in the workshop's group discussions.

He also stressed the need for rights and freedom to be in conformity with the law, as stability plays an important role in development Rakhine State.

The deputy minister suggested a review of the rights and freedoms of the ethnic minorities from the points of security and the rule of law to be able to establish a road map for their rights.

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YAU, ACARE distribute agro machinery to farmers



Dr Aung Thu presents seed sowing machines and fertilizer broadcasting equipment to representatives at the Advance Centre for Agriculture Research and Education in Yezin Agricultural University. **PHOTO: MNA**

A CEREMONY to distribute seed sowing machines and fertilizer broadcasters was held on Monday at the Advance Centre for Agriculture Research and Education (ACARE) in Yezin Agricultural University (YAU), Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was held in conjunction with the completion of the first semester of the masters and PhD students who studied modern agricultural techniques at ACARE. Present at the event were Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu; Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Vikram Misri; directors-general; rector of YAU; experts from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and ACARE; and departmental officials.

In his speech at the event, Dr. Aung Thu said the cooperation between YAU and ACARE

would bring about opportunities for improving the socio economic condition of the farmers and the emergence of experts of modern agriculture technology and researchers.

He also urged the cooperation of all sectors to enable an increase in farmers' incomes, to develop human resources together with ACARE, and to market local products in foreign countries by upgrading the technical sector.

Vikram Misri explained plans to continue cooperation in farming-based research development that should be implemented by exchanging skills between the experts at YAU and ACARE.

After the event concluded, the union minister and his party visited ACARE's library, the plant gene research laboratory and the over-harvesting period technical laboratory.

Dr Aung Thu, Vikram Misri and officials then presented seed sowing machines and fertilizer broadcasting equipment to representatives from the villages of Thayagone, Chaungsouk, Aung Pan and Gone Min Gwin in Popathiri Township, where ACARE is conducting extensive educational works.

Computers containing technical agricultural information in the Myanmar language will be set up in the villages in the near future. With the cooperation between Myanmar and India, masters and PhD courses on plant gene technical and over-harvesting period technical subjects were started at the ACARE Centre in Yezin Agricultural University from the 2017-2018 academic year. The first semester has currently ended. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations transferred, confirmed and appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Dr. Tha Tun Kyaw, Director-General, Public Health Department of Ministry of Health and Sports to Director-General for Union Minister office on the expiry of one-year probationary period from the date he assumes charge of his duties.
2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations after completion of one-year probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Lwin Oo	Director-General Amyotha Hluttaw Office Amyotha Hluttaw
(2) U Khin Latt Gyi	Director-General Department of Mines Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

3. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Hau Khan Sum, Ambassador/ Charge d' Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Myanmar to the United Nations office in Geneva as Director-General of ASEAN Affairs Department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Over 100 people killed in road accidents in Sagaing Region

OF the 380 road accidents reported in Sagaing Region in the past three months, 115 were fatal, according to the region traffic police. Between January and March this year, the number of traffic-related cases included 93 auto accidents, 186 motorcycle accidents, and 95 accidents between motorbikes and cars.

Police Captain Zaw Win Naing said, "The majority of road accidents are caused by those who fail to abide by traffic rules and regulations, although authorities are making concerted efforts to reduce road

accidents by disseminating information about traffic rules to residents. Also, action is being taken against reckless drivers and pedestrians who break the rules." According to official figures released by the traffic police, a total of 1,690 accidents occurred in Sagaing Region last year. Some 1,641 accidents were recorded in 2016, and 1,484 cases were recorded in 2015. According to the police report, the number of accident-related deaths reached 450 in 2017, 421 in 2016 and 436 in 2015. —Win Oo (Zeyataing) ■

Public Talk titled "Youths and Opportunities" held in Hpa-an

PUBLIC Talk titled "Youths and Opportunities" was held at the Community Centre in Hpa-an, Kayin State, yesterday.

In the discussion, Kayin State Electric and Industry Minister U Soe Hlaing, talked about the state government's efforts for development of industrial zones and small and medium enterprises.

Principal of the Governmental Technical High School Dr Cho Yu Mon explained short-term vocational courses at the school, saying that it produced more than

1,700 trainees so far as from 2012, and of them, about 70 per cent got jobs. The school jointly conducted a vocational training courses joining hands with Adara-Myanmar and produced more than 1,900 trainees, and of them, more than 80 per cent got jobs in 2016.

Governmental officials and employers also explained the rules of the labour law, employment opportunities created by the government, processes for applying jobs at factories. About 300 youths attended the talk. —Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD) ■



Public talk is held at the community centre in Hpa-an. **PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN (IPRD)**

“Our country is still in poverty with necessities in every sector; which is why we need to carry on our struggle and work hard in all sectors. In the international arena, we are facing pressure, criticisms and misunderstandings. The challenges and difficulties our country and our people are facing today are many. Although every issue cannot be solved easily, we will have to make utmost efforts to solve these issues according to each priority sector.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

“We face various kinds of internal and external challenges while we endeavor for political, economic and social development of our country. As we are aware of the importance of our international responsibility, we have adopted a path consistent with the needs and situation of our country respecting at the same time the views and opinions of the international community.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

“Voices for Wildlife” music festival held in Yangon

A MUSIC festival titled “Voices for Wildlife” was held yesterday evening at Mahabandoola Park in Yangon to call for the prevention of the illegal wildlife trade and to raise public awareness over the issue.

The festival made its debut in Myanmar with the help of the Denmark Embassy to Myanmar and a group named “Voices for Momos.” Denmark’s Ambassador to Myanmar Peter Lysholt Hansen said that the activity is aimed to combat the illegal wildlife trade as Myanmar has a variety of animal species. He urged the people to do their part to preserve wildlife. Body parts of wild animals being sold across the world is becoming a global issue. “The number of wild elephants is also declining due to the



Visitors to Voices for Wildlife music festival enjoy elephant dance in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

illegal wildlife trade. The ambassador urged to take action against such illegalities. If we do not take strict action in unison, Yangon

could be affected by illegal wildlife trading,” he added.

The festival was packed with audiences amidst entertainment

programmes, including Kyaukse Elephant Dances and Myanmar celebrities singing. This was followed by a signing ceremony to

combat the illegal trade on the bodies of wild elephants.

“After attending the festival, I understood that products made of the tusk and skin of elephants and other animals are part of the illegal wildlife trade. I also learnt that an elephant is killed every week in Myanmar for this purpose. We have a responsibility to protect wild animals, as they are part of the beauty of nature,” said Daw Khin Lay, who participated in the activity. The festival is aimed at urging the government to take quick legal action to combat the illegal wildlife trade. Voices for Momos programme, which began in November 2017, is a programme that can stimulate public awareness in combatting the poaching of wild elephants.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Anti-Narcotic Police statement on what to avoid during Thingyan

1. Vehicle drivers must avoid consuming alcohol or other intoxicating substances.
2. Everyone must avoid consuming all types of psychotropic drugs and sexually stimulating drugs and be on the lookout for potential tempters.
3. As responsible citizens, it is everyone’s duty to report to the nearest police officers if you stumble upon any drug dealing or consumption. Please help keep the traditional Thingyan festival clean and safe.
4. Young people should partake in the festivities in a fun and responsible manner and avoid intoxication which may lead to adverse effects.
5. We wish to urge community elders, leaders, parents, guardians, and pavilion officials to cooperate and keep vigilance so that the Thingyan Festival may commence peacefully.—Myanmar Police Force

NLD holds 2nd youth conference



Second NLD youth conference is taken place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MAUNG PHOE ZAW**

NATIONAL League for Democracy held its second All-Myanmar Youth Conference (Central) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by members of the Panel of Patrons of the National League for Democracy (NLD), members of the Central Executive Committee of NLD, youth representatives from regions and states, and guests.

U Win Htein, member of the Panel of Patrons of the NLD, presided over the conference.

The conference kicked off with opening addresses by Vice Chairman of the CEC of NLD U Win Htein and Chief Minister of Mandalay Region Dr. Zaw Myint Maung.

The first conference was held in Yangon in 2014, attracting more than 150,000 youth

from across the country.

At the central-level conference, more than 260 new generations of youth leaders from regions and states were present.

During the morning session of the conference, 65 youth were selected, and of them, 15 will be elected for the posts of chairs of sub-committees of the All-Myanmar Youth of NLD (Central). —Maung Phoe Zaw (Kalewa)■

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Yangon Region government announces rules, regulations on pandals

THE Yangon region government announced the rules and regulations to be followed by pandal constructors on 5 April.

Some 46 rules and regulations have been laid down for this year's Myanmar Thingyan festival. Besides the rules that were in place last year, the authorities have added new points as well.

Those given permission to construct a Thingyan pandal are not allowed to change the name of the pandal and sell it to other parties. Those found violating the rule will be fined from their deposit of Ks3 million or Ks5 million, which depend on the size of the pandal.

The construction of the pandals must be completed three days prior to the Thingyan festival. The authorities have also banned construction of pandals with additional area. If the space limit is exceeded, the pandal owner will be fined Ks1 million for every one feet. If the owners refuse to pay the fine, the pandals will be shut down.

Those with pandal permits are also prohibited from axing trees. If trees are de-



Revelers enjoy the water festival with the fine weather on Akya Day in 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

stroyed by the water player, owners will have to pay back three times the original value of tree.

This year, the authorities have added some points to prevent the outbreak of fire by insisting on keeping ready multipurpose dry powder type fire extinguishers.

Futher, pandal owners have to display their licences, photographs and phone numbers on

a vinyl sheet in the pandal background, with non-compliance attracting Ks1 million in fine.

At all locations, inappropriate dressing, inappropriate music and congested rooms are strictly prohibited. Some of the regulations include not using pressure pipe and not writing or composing songs or speeches that are political or not related to Thingyan. If the pandal owners do not

follow these rules and regulation, the authorities will shut down the pandal and blacklist it for the next two years.

Lastly, CCTVs must be installed at all pandals for security. Each pandal must be equipped with a first-aid kit for emergency treatment. The authorities have also limited the water-playing time from 8 am to 12 pm and 3 pm to 6 pm. — GNLM

Country to get 12 new TB, MDR-TB machines

TWELVE new machines to detect tuberculosis (TB) and multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) will be installed across the country in the next two years, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Currently, some 14 machines have already been installed in the Yangon Region, including at Mingaladon General Hospital, North Okkalapa Waibargi Hospital, Aung San tuberculosis department, Latha tuberculosis department, Thanhlyin health department, and Thingangyun and Thakayta townships health department.

Usually, MDR-TB affects those who do not take the anti-TB drugs regularly, those living together with a person suffering from MDR-TB and

those suffering from coughing bouts for more than two weeks, whether they are MDR-TB patients or not.

The Genexpert device is a molecular test for TB which detects the DNA in TB bacteria. It uses a sputum sample and can give result in less than two hours. The Genexpert test machine can give 95 per cent accurate results.

A new Genexpert test machine will be installed across the Yangon region this year and sputum lens laboratories will be constructed.

Currently, some 73 machines have already been installed in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing regions, as well as Kayin, Kayah and Chin states. — GNLM

Alcoholic kills man in Mogaung Town, Kachin State

A 33-year-old man was killed by an alcoholic residing in the same ward of Mogaung Town, Kachin State, on Friday evening, according to a police report.

According to witnesses, Hsan Pe, 56, who was an alcoholic, cut the right side of the chest and forearm of the victim, Maung Yii, while the latter was driving a farm truck loaded with sand towards his home in Natkyigon Ward.

The witnesses said the suspect used a 2-feet-long sword to attack the victim, who died at Mokaung General Hospital due to serious injuries.

The suspect is currently charged with the murder of the man. Police are further investigating the case. — Win Naing (Kachinmye)



Hsan Pe charged with the murder of a man in Mogaung Township. **PHOTO: WIN NAING (KACHINMYE)**



An ocean liner carrying containers is seen in the Yangon River. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Private sector import of consumer goods tops \$4.1 billion

THE total import value of consumer goods reached US\$4.3 billion, including \$131 million through the government sector and \$4.180 billion through the private sector, according to the statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

The current import value increased by \$325 billion as compared with the same period one year earlier when the country imported consumer goods worth \$3.986 billion.

Between 1 April of last year and 23 March of this year, the consumer goods imported by the private sector went up by

\$265 million whereas the public sector import of the similar products increased by some \$60 million.

The import of consumer goods continues to increase each year. The import value was \$1.245 billion in the 2011-2012 FY, \$1.4 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$2.9 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$3.5 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, and \$4.126 billion in the 2016-2017 FY.

Myanmar chiefly imports luxury products, personal goods, construction materials, agricultural machinery, raw ma-

terials, household utensils, food items and electronic devices from neighbouring countries.

Myanmar's major international trading partners are China, Thailand, Singapore, India, Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Germany, Indonesia, the United States and the United Kingdom.

The country's imports are always greater than its exports, causing a trade deficit. To reduce the growing trade deficit, the government is seeking the best solutions in collaboration with private businesspersons.—Swe Nyein

Government earnings from maritime services sector exceed target

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications earned Ks1.867 billion from its maritime services sector for 2017-2018 fiscal year and the figure showed an increase of its target value, said U Thein Myint, a transport manager of Delta Division.

The transport authorities are expected to earn Ks1.856 billion from this sector in FY2017-2018.

The Delta Division is one of the major transport divisions under the management of the Inland Water Transport (IWT), a state-owned enterprise to

conduct the secure and smooth transportation along the navigable waterways of delta areas, the Ayeyawady River, the Chindwin River and rivers in Mon, Kayin and Rakhine states, with a fleet of more than 300 vessels, covering powered barges, pusher tugs, dump barges and station pontoons.

According to the ministry's data, the IWT transports some 15 million passengers and 20.07 million tonnes of cargo annually.

The Delta Division operates passenger-cum-cargo transport services along the routes based in Yangon, includ-

ing Bogale, Labutta and Kyonmangay routes. In addition, it also provides ferry services at major crossing points, comprising routes between Pansodan (Yangon) and Dala, Yangon and Khanaungto and, Wadan (Yangon) and Dala.

The private transport vehicles are also busy along the route between Pyapon and Patheingyi during the pre-Thingyan period. They largely transport charcoal and wood, bags of salt and other kinds of products produced from Myaungmya and Mawlamyinegyun towns.—Aung Win (Pyapon)

10,000 saplings to be planted across Sagaing Region in 2018-2019 FY

A plan is underway to grow more than 10,000 saplings throughout Sagaing Region in the tree-planting season of the 2018-2019 financial year, according to the region Dry Zone Greening Department (DZGD).

The people-centered tree-planting project is aimed at raising public awareness about the sustainable growth of the natural environment, benefits of planting trees and their economic importance.

The programme will be carried out by the township DZGD, in cooperation with the residents.

U Ba Lwin Oo, head of the region DZGD, said, "We will dis-

tribute saplings that are marketable and provide economic benefits to growers. This is part of our environmental conservation effort that focuses on best practices for planting and maintaining trees in order to protect the region from climate change."

The scheme targets the growth of 5,000 saplings in Zeepauk Village in Tantse Township, 2,000 in Konetha Village in Ayadaw Township, 1,000 in Aungchantha Village, another 1,000 in Ohnshitpya Village in Hsalingyi Town and 1,200 in Myasan Village in Myaung Town, totalling 10,200 saplings in all. —Win Oo (Zeyataing)

Border imports from Tamu gate decline to \$3.2 million

THE import value between Myanmar and India through the Tamu border gate before the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY) declined to US\$3.290 million, as against the same period in the previous FY, according to the Commerce Ministry's latest report.

Border trade between the two countries is conducted only through two cross-border points, including Tamu and Reed. However, most bilateral imports and exports are delivered by ships.

As of 23 March, India imported commodities worth \$20.79 million from Myanmar, while exports between the two countries were \$66.934 million. Despite a decrease in the import value

at Tamu trade station, the total trade value saw a slight increase of some \$1.6 million, compared to that of the previous FY.

India normally exports ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other fruits and vegetables, plus human hair, fishery and forest products to the neighbouring country, while it imports medicines, oil-cakes, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials.

The total border trade between Myanmar and four neighbouring countries was valued at \$8.27 billion since last April, which saw an increase of \$679 million compared with the same period last FY. —Khine Khant

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Ministry of Industry's achievements in the past two years

By Thura Zaw

With the aim of strengthening effective managements of the country, Ministry of Industry has set up four policies and two visions in accordance with 12 economic objectives of the country.

Ministry of Industry has aimed at utilizing modernized and advanced techniques of agriculture to develop Agro-base industries, Agri-Business, Agro-Products, and continue the task for the establishment of Heavy Industries.

In order to strengthen increased exports, efforts are being made to drive the implementation of small and medium enterprises can stimulate substitution of imports with domestic products and also strengthen increased exports.

Moreover cooperation between private sectors and inviting participation has made to invite technical know-how and investments. The Ministry also tries to increase Production of Value-Added Commodities by effective utilization of natural resources and raw materials. It is of great importance to ensure sustainable development without environmental impact and to utilize energy efficiently and renewable energy.

Quality of products

To assess the quality of products of micro, small and medium enterprises nationwide, region and state governments are urged to exhibit local products of micro, small and medium enterprises-MSMEs products in respective regions. In order to gain balanced growth, MSMEs

are required to cooperate more with each other at regional and national level.

In accordance with the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development ASEAN SAP SMED 2016-2025 plan, Myanmar is also working for growth of the country's SMEs. Therefore a holistic way of viewing is needed to address the challenges and obstacles facing in the country.

Early stages of industrialization

Myanmar is still in the early stages of industrialization, around 57% of the total population is employed in the agricultural sector and there can be seen a stagnation of growth. Myanmar is highly



Customers shop at Mobile Mart is crowded with customers. PHOTO: MNA

Industry has focused on how to promote the private sector based on industrial modernization.



The majority of the manufacturing industries are labour-intensive products like textiles and garments.

That's why it is needed to produce higher-value commodities which can achieve long-term

economic growth in the long run. In this regard, the ministry has put priorities on the betterment of Human Resource Development (HRD), along with Small and Medium Enterprises Development and Restructuring of State-owned enterprises. It is needed to invest in the education sector towards the development of high-skilled human resources.

Advantage of labour market

Myanmar is rich in natural resources and has the comparative advantage of low-cost labour which can contribute the economic growth.

Moreover, Myanmar has great growth potential due to its advantageous geographical location at the juncture of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and borders of the world's most dynamic and fast-growing countries such as China and India. It is of great importance for the rural communities to benefit from the

economic growth and industrial development.

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

SMEs are the main driving force of the country's economy and the government is striving to obtain cash investments, main infrastructure requirements of electrical power and obtaining loans without collateral.

According to a research conducted by Central Statistics Organization, 98 per cent of the more than 120,000 businesses registered in Myanmar are SMEs. In the employment sector, of the 21.9 million workers, 83 per cent are working in un-registered SMEs.

As for the entrepreneurs, they should take advantage of the Myanmar Companies Law, which guarantees to consider a company with a 35 per cent share of foreign investment as a citizen-owned company.

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Mechanics testing equipments at Mobile Mart. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar is endowed with natural resources and has the comparative advantage of low-cost labour which can contribute to the economic growth of the nation.



Ministry of Industry offers mobile mart to customers. PHOTO: MNA

Ministry of Industry's achievements in the past two years

FROM PAGE-6

Human resource development

Ministry of Industry sends government staff to foreign countries where they can attend workshops and seminars with the aim of empowering human resource development and raising living standards as well as socio-economic status of the country.

While the demand for skilled labour is high in Myanmar, there are not enough trained workers to meet the needs of the job market. And yet youths and young adults want skill training and employment opportunities. The Ministry of Industry has opened many vocational training schools with the aim of creating job opportunities for the youths in Myanmar.

During the training period, the trainees have to visit the industrial zones and learn practical experiences.

The one who got the certificate of successful completion of the course can join any of the factories or mills in any country. The school (SITE) admission has increased up to the some 240 students. The school has taught auto industrial production system and its technology, computer-con-

trolled metal cutting and designing, management and technology on water and sewage, technology on renewable energy such as solar and wind power and training for skill on wood finished products and furniture.

Opening Technical Vocation Training Schools

There are currently 6 Technical Vocation Training Schools where students can learn auto industrial production system and its technology, computer-controlled metal cutting and designing, management.

There are totaling some 2000 students who can work at various factories in the county.

With the assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), many Technical Training Schools have been opened in Mandalay and Pakokku where many courses including Manual Metal Arc Welding (MMAW), MIG / MAG Welding, Small Farm Engine Mechanic, Motorcycle Mechanic have been conducted as Pilot Project for 382 students.

Energies Asset Management (EAM)

Energies Asset Management (EAM) is an investment company that acquires, develops



Workers use a mini hydro turbine to assess the waterway PHOTO: MNA

and operates solar power plants for long-term ownership. EAM objective is to generate value through acquiring, developing, operating and managing solar power plants according to best practice operational performance and risk management.

According to the officials, only one-third of Myanmar's nearly 64,000 villages are currently electrified, that's why the government is trying to meet its target of 100% electrification by 2030, it must supply power to 40,000 villages through grid extension and off-grid electrification over the next 14 years.

The project, financed by the

Government of Japan through the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, is supporting the government's policy of scaling up access to energy in the selected villages. It has established community-based organizations called Village Energy Committees and will enhance community livelihoods that are linked to the availability of electricity.

The project is also developing a geospatial investment plan for these regions, and strengthening the capacity of government institutions to design and implement small-scale renewable energy systems in off-grid areas.

Sustainable Industrial Development

As for the Ministry of Industry, measures are being taken for industrial development such as improving quality of products, creating new designs and packing, training better performance of the staff, producing skilled labourers, networking with local and foreign firms for SME development, conducting vocational trainings, sustainable development and environmental conservation.

(Translated by
Nyi Nyi Aung)



Construction site of the steel factory (1) (Myin Gyan). PHOTO: MNA



The process of production in the pharmaceutical factory (Inyang). PHOTO: MNA



This silo can fit 500 tons of grain inside. PHOTO: MNA

Land disputes are harming development

LAND use management is a herculean task, as it is sine qua non for providing the people with daily basic needs including food safety, water resources, stability and tranquility in civil and social environment, and conservation of cultural heritage, not just for the current population but also for future generations.

However, a lack of cooperation and coordination between the government departments and institutions connected with land has caused land disputes. The number of land confiscations and complaints about land grabbing have also increased in our country.

The ways to solve the issues are complex, causing hindrances to land use management and resulting in a lack of development.

We urgently need to adopt more pragmatic and strategic decisions in administering the land and natural resources of our country to bring about sustainability and to reduce the impacts of climate change.

The lack of statistics and accurate maps have led to dire consequences between administrators and local residents, and also to the appearance of squatters.

It is questionable whether the 100-year-old land resources management law of our country is in conformity with the situation of the current era. We need to review it considering the points of view of the people in order for the law to be fair.

When we draw up and implement town plans and investment projects, we need to lay down accurate policy, rules and regulations and cooperation and coordination between Union Ministries concerned, regional governments and institutions to reduce the land disputes. Only then, can we boost local and foreign investment.

social point of view.

The National Land Use Council will draft short-term and long-term strategies in collaboration with experts. This will allow authorities to quickly solve the problems surrounding land use in Myanmar and also strengthen land use administration.

First, we should find the causes of the problems and possible solutions to the various situations surrounding land use across the country.

When we draw up and implement town plans and investment projects, we need to lay down accurate policy, rules and regulations and cooperation and coordination between Union Ministries concerned, regional governments and institutions to reduce the land disputes. Only then, can we boost local and foreign investment.

With systematic reforms in land use sector, we can achieve our goal. ■

Printing and Publishing Department's progress and future plans

By Shin Min

Progress and accomplishment

Sarpay Beikman is well known among literature enthusiasts for awarding the Lifetime Achievement for National Literary Award and National Literature Award annually. It is part of the Printing and Publishing Department and does its best to ensure Myanmar literature is promoted, the public is well informed, and the people's livelihoods are enhanced through literature.

Selecting award nominees

During the second 1-year timeframe, the Printing and Publishing Department has published 64 literary works that have won the National Literature Award and 24 literary works that have won Pakkoku U Ohn Pe literary award. The total of literature awards receivers will have the opportunity to enter the National Literature Award in the following year.

There are two groups established to pick the best author for the National Literature Award and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards. These are in turn made up of smaller voting committees on different genres. There are 16 genres in the public sector and 13 genres in the Sarpay Beikman manuscript translation team.

Sarpay Beikman uploads its selection criteria and process on the MOI Webportal and the Sarpay Beikman Website for transparency. Experts choose from a wide range of lauded literary works, have meetings to grade and select nominations, and the Printing and Publishing Department manages the award ceremony.

Sarpay Beikman has successfully given out literary awards for 2015 and 2016. In 2015 Sarpay Beikman gave out two Lifetime Achievement for National Literary Awards along with Ks 2.5 million each, eleven National Literature Awards along with Ks 1.5 million each, and thirty-three Sarpay Beik-



Monsoon Season Book Sales. The first-ever political literature reading plus a monsoon book fair, at the Central Printing Factory of the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu road, Yangon. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

man Manuscript Awards for 12 genres along with Ks 700,000 for first prize, Ks 500,000 for second prize, and Ks 300,000 for third prize.

Similarly in 2016, Sarpay Beikman gave out three Lifetime Achievement for National Literary Awards, ten National Literature Awards, and 26 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for 11 genres; all with the same prize money given in 2015.

Sarpay Beikman's 70 year journey

On the occasion of Sarpay Beikman's 70th anniversary a special compilation of articles was released in a single book form. Shwe Thway Journal for children is printed every Saturday and contains comics and trivia for children. Special issues were released in 2016 and 2018. A monthly magazine is also published containing

translated articles and an encyclopedia is published once a year containing significant global events.

During the two year administration of the civilian government the Printing and Publishing Department published Burmese translated versions of Hillary Clinton's Leadership Secrets, Value of a Citizen, Towards the Stars, and Asian Youth. In collaboration with Japan's Shanti Volunteer Group, the Printing and Publishing Department held a translation competition for youths and the first place manuscript was published and distributed to Information and Public Relations Department (IPRDs).

Sarpay Beikman libraries

Sarpay Beikman has two libraries, one in Yangon and one in Mandalay, and provides services for staff from private

libraries, students, library researchers, and research students. As for children, there are story telling competitions, spelling bees, and Shwe Thway poem recitals.

Paper reading sessions and book fairs

A political paper reading session and a rainy season book fair were held at the main building of the Printing and Publishing Department located at building (228) on Theinphyu Road from 29 to 31 July 2016. Sixteen papers were read and 170 book stalls were opened.

A history paper reading session and cold season book fair was held from 1 to 4 December 2016 and 14 papers were read and 200 book stalls were opened.

A translated text reading session and summer book fair was held from 29 April to 1 May 2017 and 15 papers were

read and 165 book stalls were opened.

The Printing and Publishing Department also prints school textbooks for the Ministry for Education in time for the new school years. They printed 17.109 million school texts for the 2017-2018 academic year and printed 35.025 million school texts for the 2018-2019 academic year.

In the two year administration of the civilian government, the enterprise has printed 11,698,662 books and 17.8 million texts for ministries and private organisations. They also print documentary books for national events and occasions.

The enterprise has printed 4 volumes of the collected texts from the political paper and history paper reading sessions and the question and answer sessions, a book on te Uppata-thendi Pagoda, Peace cartoons book, the first and second documentary books for the Un-

ion Peace Conference 21st Century Pang Long, Sarpay Beikman's 70th Anniversary book, a book on the Union Government's first year review and progress, and the first 100 days of progress for the public.

Future plans for literature development

The Printing and Publishing Department is carrying out a project to compile novels, short stories, poems and other articles and publish them in separate books for distribution to the public. A novel compilation is coming out soon. The department in collaboration with Tun Commercial Foundation will compile and print the 15 encyclopedias published over the previous 50 years. Shwe Thway journal for kids will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2019 and a special gold jubilee edition is in the plans for printing.

The enterprise is planning to conduct three paper reading sessions, literary circles, workshops, and book exhibitions for ethnic people every budget year. Furthermore, there are plans to translate children's books into ethnic languages, publishing children's journals once every two months, and conferring appropriate cash prizes along with the National Literature Award and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award.

Future plans for printing and publishing

The Printing and Publishing Department will continue its current responsibilities with an aim for improved quality in the future. The department began in 1880 in Yangon Central Jail to a government organisation that has been serving the public for over 130 years and will continue to provide printing and translated texts to the public and the government. ■

Translated by Chris

World Health Day 2018

By Dr. Aung Tun

EVERY year, World Health Day is celebrated on 7 April to mark the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. Each year a theme is selected that highlights a priority area of public health. Focusing on new and emerging health issues, the day provides an opportunity to start collective action to protect people's health and well-being. The theme of World Health Day 2018 is: Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere. The slogan is "Health for All".

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means that all people and communities receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship. UHC enables everyone to access the services that address the most important causes of disease and death and ensures that the quality of those services is good enough to improve the health of the people who receive them.

UHC does not mean free coverage for all possible health interventions, regardless of the cost, as no country can provide all services free of charge on a sustainable basis. UHC is not only about ensuring a minimum package of health services, but also about ensuring a progressive expansion of coverage of health services and financial protection as more resources become available. UHC is not only about medical treatment for individuals, but also includes services for whole populations such as public health campaigns – for example adding fluoride to water or controlling the breeding grounds of mosquitoes that carry viruses that can cause disease. UHC is not just about health care and financing the health system of a country. It encompasses all components of the health system: systems and healthcare providers that deliver health services to people, health facilities and communications networks, health technologies, information systems, quality assurance mechanisms and governance and legislation.

The Global Prevalence of UHC

Data shows that despite some progress, too many people are currently missing out on health coverage. Here are some facts and figures about the state of UHC today:

- ❖ At least half of the world's people is currently unable to obtain essential health services.
- ❖ Almost 100 million people are being pushed into extreme poverty, forced to survive on just \$1.90 or less a day, because they have to pay for health services out of their own pockets.
- ❖ Over 800 million people (almost 12 percent of the world's population) spend at least 10 percent of their household budgets on health expenses for themselves, a sick child or other family member. They incur so-called "catastrophic expenditures".
- ❖ Incurring catastrophic expenses for health care is a global problem. In richer countries in Europe, Latin America and parts of Asia, which have achieved high levels of access to health services, increasing numbers of people are spending at least 10 percent of their household budgets on out-of-pocket health expenses.

Path to Universal Health Care in Myanmar

Myanmar has already been determined to achieve the Universal Health Coverage by 2030. Although Myanmar has made some progress towards Universal Health Coverage, we have a long way to go. The country's 70% of the population lives in rural area and out of pocket health expenditure is relatively high though it has started declining due to the government's consistently increasing its expenditure is relatively high in recent years. Available evidence also showed that poor accessibility to health care services is associated with socio-economic status, location and availability of services. Many of the gaps identified for UHC relate to gaps in supply side investments, in particular primary care facilities, human resources and essential medicines. In equalities of access and outcomes related to socio-economic status, indicates the requirement for a focus on protection measures to ensure the poorest section of the community has access to health care as the country scales up to UHC.

SEE PAGE 10

Banana leaf-furred Toe Naya dance in Shan State

IN Shan State, Kainari and Kainara duet birds dance, Toe Naya dance, sword dance and Shan martial arts dance are performed on auspicious ceremonies.

For the Toe Naya dance, people mostly see a plastic string-furred beast or shaggy haired object where two men inside are moving to become a life-like creature.

There is another kind of Toe Naya with fur made from fresh green banana leaf. In the Shan language, it is called "Toe Taung Kway."

The Toe Taung Kway dance is rare to see these days. However, it can be seen often at big donation ceremonies that take place at the Thiri Mingala Mansu Shan monastery in Lashio Town, Northern Shan State.

At a Buddhist novitiation ceremony where 142 local boys are ordained as new novices, which is celebrated on 1 April at the monastery visitors are en-



Dance troupe performs banana leaf-furred Toe Naya dance in Shan State. **PHOTO: MDN**

tertained with the dance of Toe Taung Kway.

The dance troupe is from Nam Khaik village in Lashio Township. They have preserved the traditional dance of Toe Taung Kway out of respect; they are not a commercial troupe. The donors of Buddhist monk ordination ceremonies are invited under the management of the senior monk of the monastery.

When donors and visitors award cash, the beast skillfully

picks up the cash with its mouth and spectators are pleased to see it. The body frame of the beast which is made of bamboo is connected to the head; the mouth can open and close. When the troupe is about to perform a dance at a ceremony, the body is decorated with banana leaf that is freshly picked.

A man stands at the hind-quarter part of the beast. His two legs are the two hind legs of the beast. On the back of the beast,

two fake legs are placed to give the impression that someone is riding the beast to control it. The man also reins the beast holding a rope in his left hand and a cane in his right hand.

The man inside the front part of the beast has to take responsibility for the movement of the head and front legs of the beast.

Both men's movements are synchronized and their skillful performance is accompanied with the music of the Shan long drum.

According to a Shan legend, the dance of Toe (believed to be Yaks found in Tibet and Mongolia) and Kainari and Kainara (half-man half-bird mythical creatures) originated from the incident when they welcomed the Buddha when he returned from Heaven where he preached to gods for three months. —Myanmar Digital News ■

No people, animals killed in forest fire in Kyeikto Town

A FOREST wildfire that occurred on Friday in Kyeikto, a town in Mon State, was extinguished after two hours of battling the flames, according to the township fire services department.

At about 3 p.m. on Friday, 6 March, the fire started at a former rubber plantation area owned by the Ministry of Industry near Kinmonchaung motor road in the town.

The fire destroyed three acres of natural plants, but no humans or animals were reportedly harmed, an official said.

Led by U Tin Htwe, head of the township fire services department, firefighters had put out the wildfire with the use of three fire engines plus three water tanks. The flames were successfully brought under control by 5 p.m. the same day.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. — Win Maung (Kyeikto) ■

World Health Day 2018

FROM PAGE 8+9

The Mission and Goals of Myanmar Universal Health Coverage(UHC) are : to strengthen the health systems towards the provision of equitable universal coverage through(1) improving health outcomes; (2) Enhancing financial protection, and (3) Ensuring consumer satisfaction. Realizing the current critical challenges and to achieve the aspirational goals, the following nine strategic areas have been identified.

1. Identify the Essential Health Package ensuring access to comprehensive quality health services for all;
2. Enhance Human Resources for Health (HRH) Management through implementation of the Health Workforce Strategic Plan to address the current challenges hindering the equitable access to quality services;
3. Ensure the availability of quality, efficacious and low cost essential medicines, equipment and technologies including supply chain management and infrastructure at all level;
4. Enhance the effectiveness of Public Private Partnerships;
5. Develop alternative health financing methods and risk pooling mechanisms to expand the fiscal space for

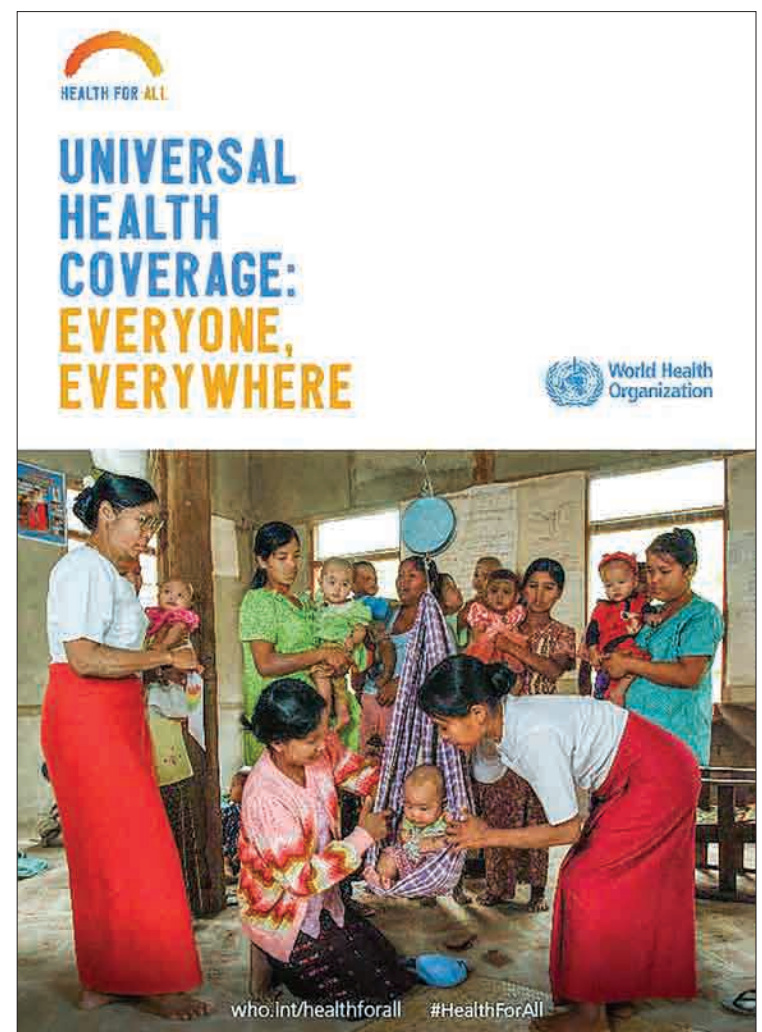
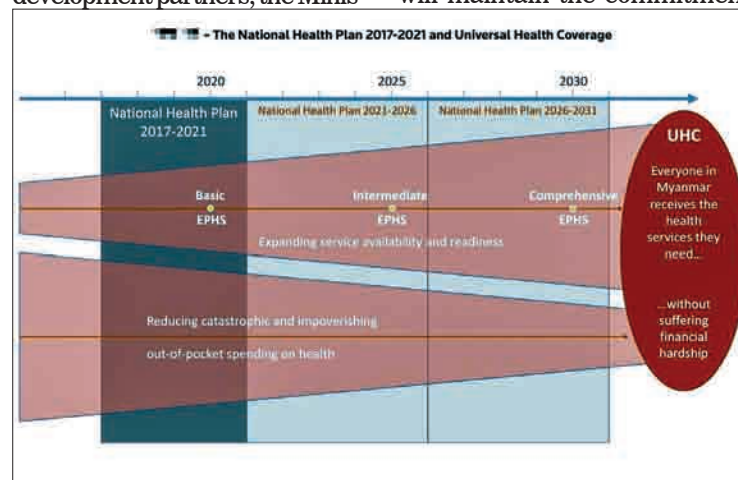
6. Strengthen the community engagement in health service delivery and promotion;
7. Strengthen the evidence based information and comprehensive management Information system including non-public sector;
8. Review the existing Health Policies and adopt the necessary policies to address the current challenges for UHC;
9. Intensify the Governance and stewardship for attainment of UHC.

In collaboration with key stakeholders including the government, ethnic nationalities, civil society, private sectors, and development partners, the Minis-

try of Health and Sports has formulated the National Health Plan (2017-2021) with an overall aim of achieving the UHC by 2030. The National Health Plan (2017-2021) has set the overall approach for the next five years and what can and should be done, with the bigger goal of achieving Universal Coverage by 2030. The plan also aims to deliver a basic Essential Health package by 2020, and also build foundations for the next 15 years, bringing Myanmar closer to Universal Health Coverage.

Together on the Road to Universal Health Coverage

Health is a human right and no one should have to choose between good health and other life necessities. Universal Health Coverage is key to people and nations' health and well-being. The Ministry of Health and Sports will maintain the commitment



to further its collaboration with various sectors and partners to ensure achieving the Universal Health Coverage.

Everyone –individuals, communities, cities, health professionals, civil society organizations, and media-can play a part in the road to Universal Health Coverage, by taking part in a universal health coverage conversation. ■

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Ethnic minority rights in Rakhine reviewed

FRPM PAGE-1

At the workshop, officials of the Rakhine State Legal Office, Rakhine State General Administration Department, Rakhine State Ethnic Affairs Ministry and Rakhine State Immigration and National Registration Department discussed the regional orders, rules, rights of ethnic minorities and citizenship rights.

Representatives of the ethnic minorities participated

in group discussions and presented the common agreement on their rights. The workshop was held by the Reception and Resettlement Committee of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Rakhine State Government.

The outcomes of the workshop will be submitted to the Committee on Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State.—Myo Myint ■

Golden deer population in Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary increases

FRPM PAGE-1

The sanctuary is located between Kantbalu and Kawlin townships in Sagaing Region.

The deer, which live in groups, are being overhunted by deer hunters.

The sanctuary in upper Myanmar was established in 1940, when some 1,000 deer lived in the area.

The sanctuary is now on a 66,273-acre forest reserve operated by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation

and Forestry. There were some 3,000 deer in the sanctuary between 1995 and 1996, when the population was tracked using radio signals.

The vegetarian mammal's scientific name is *Cervus eldithamin*.

The sanctuary is also populated with 360 other species of mammals, including barking deer, wild cats and wild boars, 1,235 species of birds and 360 species of reptiles.—Aung Win Nyein ■

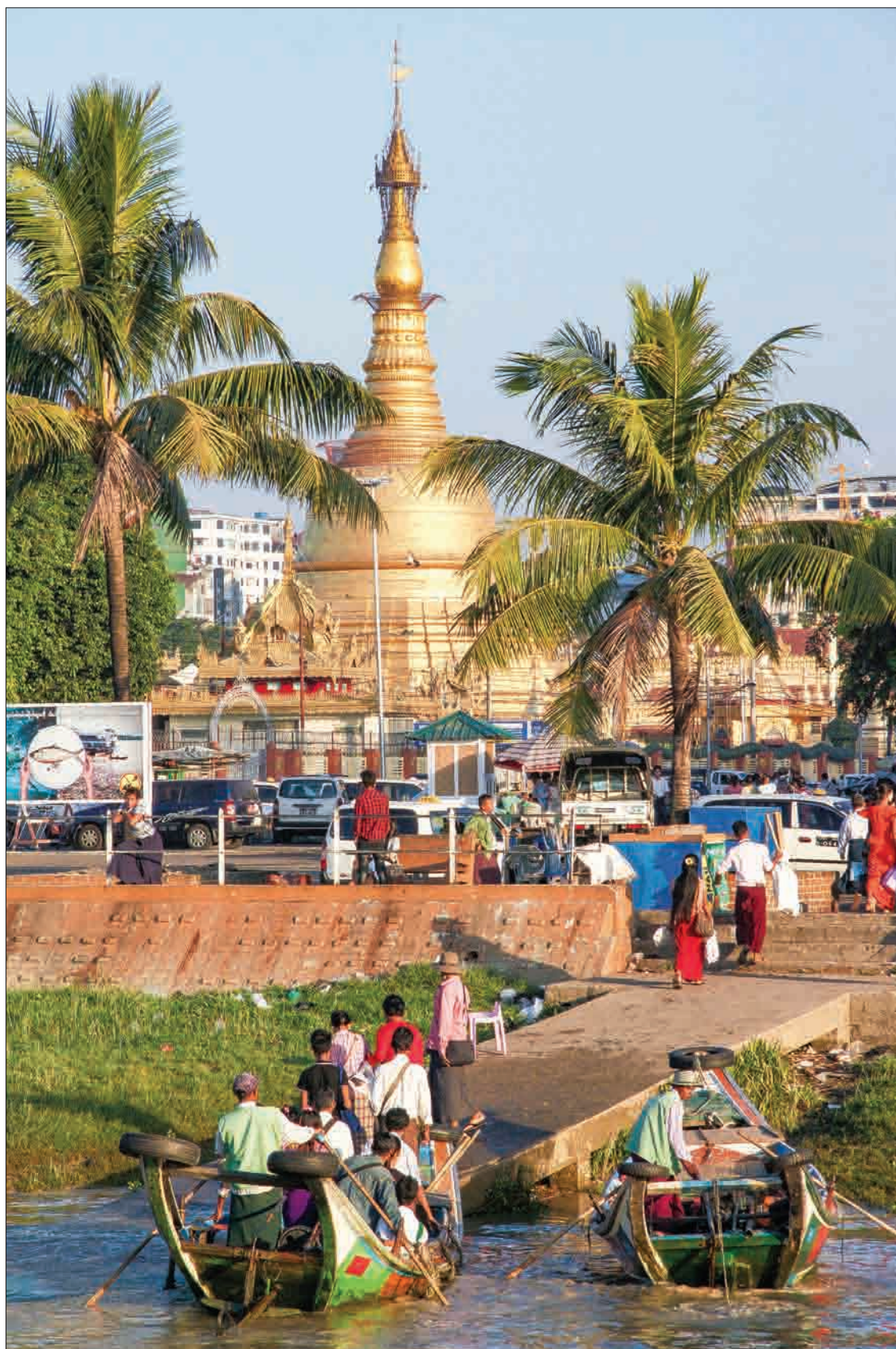
Apology Notice

MRTV would like to apologise to the public concerning the broadcasting of the President's dinner for taking up office on 6 April.

MRTV and subsequent channels had originally planned to broadcast the events before dinner first, broadcast the news, and then continue broadcast of the

performances at the dinner event.

However MRTV only broadcasted events before dinner and did not broadcast the performances after the news. We would like to offer our heartfelt apologies, as we have heard that the public was disappointed of these incidents.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Botahtaung jetty is crowded with commuters and travellers, especially during rush hour. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Construction of pedestrian overpass underway near Botahtaung Pagoda in Yangon

A pedestrian overpass is being built near Botahtaung Pagoda in Yangon, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

"The pedestrian bridge project was started on 1 April 2018. It is being constructed near the entrance of the pagoda precinct and will connect the old and new Strand roads. The digging for the foundation started recently.

The bridge is being constructed by Mya Thet Tin Construction Company under the supervision of the Yangon

City Development Committee (YCDC), said an official from the engineering department (Road and Bridge).

The overpass is being constructed to prevent accidents, because the junction is always crowded with pedestrians and vehicles.

Earlier, overpasses in the Yangon Region were constructed by the YCDC, but from 2017, the bridges are being constructed by private entrepreneurs.

"The road is used by the

local people who come from the other side of the Yangon Region, as well as by those visiting the Botahtaung Pagoda.

The place is crowded with pedestrians and container vehicles that use the road daily. Therefore, the construction of the overpass will ensure the safety of our people," said U Nyi Nyi Tun, owner of a snake shop near Botahtaung Pagoda.

The Botahtaung pedestrian overpass will include escalators, and is expected to be completed by June.—GNLM ■

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Texas, Arizona announce troop deployments to Mexico border

WASHINGTON, United States — The US states of Texas and Arizona on Friday announced plans to send National Guard troops to the southern border with Mexico after President Donald Trump ordered a thousands-strong deployment to combat drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

The Texas National Guard said it would send 250 troops to the border within 72 hours and had already deployed two Lakota helicopters, while Arizona's governor said he would send 150 personnel next week.

"The Texas national guard is preparing to immediately deploy with supporting aircraft, vehicles and equipment to the Texas-Mexico border," Brigadier General Tracy Norris, the commanding general of the Texas National Guard, told reporters at a briefing.

"This deployment has begun with the movement of equipment and troops today. Within 72 hours the Texas military department will have 250 personnel along with ground surveillance vehicles as well as light and medium aviation platforms," she added.

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey announced his plans in



The Texas National Guard said it would send 250 troops to the border within 72 hours. **PHOTO: AFP**

a tweet.

Secretary of Defence Jim Mattis signed an order for "up to 4,000 National Guard personnel to support DHS's southern border security mission while under the command and control of their respective governors through 30 September, 2018," according to a Department of Defence memo.

The memo set out that troops would not carry out law

enforcement activities without the defence secretary's approval and would be armed only in "circumstances that might require self-defence."

Mattis and homeland security secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said the decision came after their departments "identified security vulnerabilities that could be addressed by the National Guard." "Together, the Depart-

ments of Homeland Security and Defence are committed to using every lever of power to support the men and women of law enforcement defending our nation's sovereignty and protecting the American people," they said in a joint statement.

"We will continue to work with the governors to deploy the necessary resources until our nation's borders are secure."

Trump had said on Thursday that the final deployment would range from 2,000 to 4,000 troops, and he would "probably" keep many personnel on the border until his promised border wall is built — spelling out a lengthy mission.

The move has heightened tensions with Mexico, whose President Enrique Peña Nieto said Trump's "threatening or disrespectful attitudes" were unjustified.

It has also raised questions about who will fund the mission.

The Pentagon could not say where the money would come from and Trump admitted the White House was still "looking at" costs.

If 4,000 troops were deployed, that would be about double the current US military presence in Syria and about half as many as the number of US troops in Iraq.

The National Guard has previously been deployed to help patrol the southern border, including in 2010 under former president Barack Obama, and from 2006-2008 under George W. Bush. Both deployments were limited to around a year.—AFP ■

Facebook to verify identities, require labels for political ads

WASHINGTON — Facebook announced on Friday it will require political ads on its platform to state who is paying for the message and would verify the identity of the payer, in a bid to curb outside election interference.

The social network, which is under fire for enabling manipulation of its platform in the 2016 election, said the new policy would require any messages for candidates or public issues to include the label "political ad" with the name of the person or entity paying for it. Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg said the change will mean "we will hire thousands of more people" to get the new system in place ahead of US mid-term elections in November.

"We're starting this in the US and expanding to the rest of the world in the coming months," Zuckerberg said on his Facebook page. "These steps by themselves won't stop all people trying to game the system. But they will

make it a lot harder for anyone to do what the Russians did during the 2016 election and use fake accounts and pages to run ads." A separate Facebook statement said the changes would help improve transparency and accountability of the network around political campaigns. "We believe that when you visit a page or see an ad on Facebook, it should be clear who it's coming from," the statement said. To get authorized by Facebook, "advertisers will need to confirm their identity and location," the statement said.

"Advertisers will be prohibited from running political ads — electoral or issue-based — until they are authorized." Facebook made the announcement as Zuckerberg prepared to appear before Congress next week to answer questions about the harvesting of personal data on 87 million users by Cambridge Analytica, a British political consultancy working for Donald Trump's

presidential campaign. The move also comes amid concerns that Russian-sponsored entities delivered Facebook ads designed to create discord and confusion ahead of the election and that firms like Cambridge Analytica created messages based on psychographic profiles gleaned from the platform to influence voters.

Sandberg's apology

Separately, Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg offered fresh apologies to users for failing to do enough on privacy and data protection.

"We know that we did not do enough to protect people's data," Sandberg told National Public Radio. "I'm really sorry for that. Mark is really sorry for that, and what we're doing now is taking really firm action." Sandberg said Facebook first became aware in 2015 that Cambridge Analytica had obtained user data from a researcher who put up a poll on



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said the network will hire "thousands" of new employees to verify the identity of political advertisers. **PHOTO: AFP**

the social network.

"When we received word that this researcher gave the data to Cambridge Analytica, they assured us it was deleted," she said.

"We did not follow up and confirm, and that's on us — and particularly once they were active in the election, we should have done that." Sandberg was asked by NBC television's "Today Show" if other cases of user data misuse could be expected. "We're doing an investigation, we're going to do audits and yes, we think it's possible, that's why we're doing the audit," she said. Sandberg said Facebook also should have been more proactive in dealing with Russian interference in the

2016 presidential election. "That was something we should have caught, we should have known about," she told NPR. "We didn't. Now we've learned." The firestorm over the improper data shared has sparked calls for investigations on both sides of the Atlantic. In Brussels, a European Union spokesman said Facebook confirmed that up to 2.7 million people in the EU may have been affected by the personal data scandal. "We will study the letter (from Facebook) in more detail, but it is already clear that this will need further follow-up discussions with Facebook," spokesman Christopher Wigand said.—AFP ■

Air France cancels 30 per cent of flights due to strikes

PARIS — Air France said on Saturday that hundreds of its flights have been cancelled as pilots, cabin crew and ground staff pursued a fifth day of strikes aimed at securing higher pay.

The walkout has affected international and domestic travel, with a quarter of long-haul flights cancelled.

Around a third of medium-haul flights to and from Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport have not taken off.

Thirty per cent of short-haul flights have been cancelled to and from Paris's Orly airport and French regions.

Unions say workers deserve to benefit from years of belt-tightening that have brought the carrier back to operating profitability, after seeing their wages effectively frozen since 2011.



The walkout has affected international and domestic travel, with a quarter of long-haul flights cancelled. PHOTO: AFP

Saturday saw the highest cancellation rate since unions called for the daylong work stop-

pages in February in pursuit of a six percent pay raise.

Air France manage-

ment's offer of a one percent raise this year has been rejected. Management estimated 34 per

cent of pilots walked out, 26 per cent of crew and 19 percent of ground staff. Unions have already

warned of more strikes to come, with six more days of walkouts planned including two next week, on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The airline has warned that the strikes are costing Air France 25 million euros (\$30 million) each day, money the airline should be investing in buying planes and creating jobs.

The Air France industrial action coincides with rolling strikes by workers at the state rail operator SNCF, as well as protests by students, public servants, energy workers and rubbish collectors. Although the various protests have different aims, they have created a general atmosphere of social discontent as President Emmanuel Macron pursues his ambitious reform drive.—AFP ■

India to begin two-week air combat exercise

NEW DELHI — India will begin one of its biggest air combat exercises from Sunday, officials said.

During the two-week Gaganshakti exercise, the Indian Air Force will mobilize 1,100 aircraft, including Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets and mid-air refuellers, to check its operational preparedness for any eventuality, officials said. "It's for the first time the efficacy and integration of the indigenous Tejas light combat aircraft in the operational matrix of Indian Air Force is planned," spokesperson Wing Commander

Anupam Banerjee told the media.

The Indian Air Force's exercise will also focus on the flexible use of airspace and joint operations with the Indian Army and Indian Navy, officials said.

"Concepts of accelerated operations, network-centric operations, long range missions with concentrated weapon releases across all air to ground ranges in India and inter-valley troop transfer as well as joint operations with Navy and Army will all be validated," Banerjee added.—Xinhua ■

Eight killed as truck ploughs into auto-rickshaws in central India

NEW DELHI — At least eight people were killed and five others injured after a speeding truck ploughed into two passenger auto-rickshaws in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, police said.

The accident occurred near Majhgavan in the state's Katni district, some 350 km from

Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal.

"The truck hit the two auto-rickshaws, carrying 13 people, one after the other as its driver lost control of the speeding vehicle. While eight people died in the impact of the crash, those injured have been admitted to a local hospital," a police official said.

The death toll may go up later in the day as the condition of two of the injured are said to be serious, he said, adding that all the victims were occupants of the two auto-rickshaws.

Eye-witnesses told police that the truck was travelling at high speed.

"A probe has been ordered into the incident

and a manhunt launched to track down the truck driver who fled the spot leaving the vehicle behind. The driver has been booked for rash and negligent driving," the official said.

Road accidents occur in India mostly due to reckless driving or badly maintained roads and vehicles.—Xinhua ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1083 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1083 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1100W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1100W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Seven year old Anna Caecilia Pfoess will play a violin used by Mozart on a state visit to China. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mozart's childhood violin heads to China

VIENNA, Austria — The violin that Mozart used as a child left Friday for a state visit by Austrian government members to China, where a seven-year-old girl will play it for President Xi Jinping.

The girl, Anna Caecilia Pfoess, “will accompany us... as a musical ambassador and represent Austria as a land of culture,” President Alexander Van der Bellen said.

“She will do it quite brilliantly, I am sure,” Van der Bellen told reporters before the 200-strong delegation of politicians, business people and others departed.

“#Music is a common language understood and appreciated the world over,” he added on Twitter alongside a photo

of the grinning seven-year-old clutching the instrument and wearing traditional Austrian garb.

The violin is believed to have been made in the 1740s and until 1820 belonged to Mozart's sister Maria Anna, nicknamed Nannerl, also a child prodigy.

Since 1896 it has been in the collection of the Mozarteum Foundation in Salzburg, and is normally on display at the museum in the house where the composer was born.

Pfoess will perform at Sunday's state banquet attended by Xi and Van der Bellen, playing pieces by, unsurprisingly, Mozart but also other Austrian and Chinese composers. —AFP ■

Schwarzenegger back home after heart surgery: spokesman

LOS ANGELES — Action hero Arnold Schwarzenegger is back home in Los Angeles and in good spirits after undergoing open heart surgery following complications with a routine operation, his spokesman said on Friday.

The 70-year-old “Terminator” and “Predator” star, and former governor of California, was at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, near Hollywood, to have a valve replaced on March 29 when doctors opted for the emergency procedure.

“Update: Schwarzenegger comes home,” his representative Daniel Ketchell posted on Twitter, later clarifying to AFP that Schwarzenegger had been released Friday afternoon and was “recovering at home in fantastic spirits.” The former Mr Universe underwent non-urgent heart surgery in 1997 to have the valve put in, due to a condition he said was congenital and had nothing to do with steroids.

“That 1997 replacement valve was never meant to be permanent, and has outlived its life expectancy, so he chose to re-



Arnold Schwarzenegger. **PHOTO: AFP**

place it... through a less-invasive catheter valve replacement,” Ketchell said after the successful operation. Schwarzenegger has been tweeting during his stay at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, telling fans on Monday that “It’s true: I’m back!” — a play on his famous catchphrase “I’ll be back!” He has used the line — or close variations — in numerous movies, including “The Terminator,” “Commando,” “Raw Deal,” “The Running Man,” “Twins,” “Total Recall,” “Kindergarten Cop,” “Last Ac-

tion Hero,” “Jingle All the Way,” “The 6th Day” and “The Expendables II.”

The Austrian-born former bodybuilder was voted in as governor of California in a historic 2003 recall vote — but proved the win was no fluke by routing opponent Phil Angelides to get re-elected. “I went to sleep expecting to wake up with a small incision and woke up with a big one — but guess what? I woke up, and that’s something to be thankful for,” Schwarzenegger tweeted from hospital.—AFP ■

Bollywood star Salman Khan granted bail

JODHPUR, India — Bollywood superstar Salman Khan was granted bail on Saturday, allowing him to contest a five-year prison sentence for killing endangered wildlife two decades ago.

Khan, one of the world’s highest-paid actors, spent two nights in jail after a court on Thursday found him guilty of killing rare antelopes known

as black bucks on a hunting trip while shooting a movie in 1998.

Mahesh Bora, a lawyer for Khan, told reporters a judge had signed off his bail on a bond of 50,000 rupees (\$770).

Media reports said the 52-year-old action movie star should be able to leave Jodhpur Central Jail in Rajasthan state before the end of the day.

Prosecution lawyer Mahi-

pal Bishnoi told reporters that Khan would now have to appear in court on 7 May.

The actor — affectionately called “bhai”, or “brother” in Hindi — enjoys a cult-like status and had hoards of fans waiting outside the court on Saturday who burst into celebrations after the hearing, beating drums and chanting his name. —AFP ■



The latest Star Wars instalment takes the audience back to the youth of the famous smuggler and pilot Han Solo, played by US actor Alden Ehrenreich. **PHOTO: AFP**

Star Wars spin-off to be presented at Cannes

PARIS — The latest Star Wars instalment takes the audience back to the youth of the famous smuggler and pilot Han Solo, played by US actor Alden Ehrenreich

The latest spin-off in the Star Wars saga, dedicated to Han Solo, will be screened at Cannes next month, the film festival announced on Friday.

Solo: A Star Wars Story will grace the festival’s red carpet

ahead of its release in France and the US.

“Presented out of competition, the latest film of the Star Wars galaxy (directed) by Ron Howard brings together Han Solo, his faithful Chewbacca, the crooked Lando Calrissian, the Millennium Falcon and of course the droids,” the festival said on its website. Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith was the last in the franchise to air at Cannes

in 2005. The latest instalment takes the audience back to the youth of the famous smuggler and pilot Han Solo, played by US actor Alden Ehrenreich. It is the second spin-off derived from the famous science fiction series, after Rogue One was released in December 2016 which made more than \$1 billion at the box office. The Cannes International Film Festival will run from 8 to 19 May.—AFP ■

Popularizing the ukulele, with mischievous punk spirit

NEW YORK — ukulele has two obvious selling points: it is affordable and easy to carry. But could the unassuming four-string instrument also incarnate the spirit of punk rock?

Since forming three decades ago, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain has helped build a new audience for what it calls the “bonsai guitar,” playing musically faithful but thoroughly tongue-in-cheek renditions of popular tunes.

Starting its latest US tour, the orchestra — clad in evening finest, including tuxedo jackets and bow ties — quickly pulled in dozens of smartphone-snapping onlookers as the eight ukuleleists strummed their way through AC/DC’s “Highway to Hell.”

Playing with the Australian headbangers’ poetry, soloist Ben Rouse sang, “Hey Satan / Paying my dues / Playing in a ukulele band,” as the players raised their instruments to the heavens in mock defiance.

Asked why he took up the ukulele, fellow player Jonty Bankes said, “Basically, it’s cheap and rather easy to play, so for people like us it was a god-send.”

But the self-styled orchestra has noticed a power in the tiny instrument over the years — with gigs including two nights at Carnegie Hall, a set at the Glastonbury Festival in England and a private party at Windsor Castle for Queen Elizabeth II’s 90th birthday. “The thing is, when you bring a ukulele out and start playing it, it does actually make people smile,” Bankes said.

“It’s an unthreatening, friendly instrument which causes a bit of happiness worldwide, really,” he said.

Started as a joke

Co-founded by Kitty Lux — whose death last year at 59



A member of the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, which has managed to infuse the unassuming instrument with a punk-rock spirit, playing recently in New York’s Central Park. **PHOTO: AFP**

brought a rare serious note to the ensemble with a memorial concert — the group initially was interested not in the ukulele itself but in the irreverent energy of punk rock, then on its wane.

“Punks could form a band and play three chords, if indeed they could play three. The way that the band started, the same thing happened” said Leisa Rea, who nonetheless had learned guitar before ukulele.

“The instrument was a bit of a joke, I suppose, and we turned everything on its head. The spirit of punk is alive in the band,” she said.

“We don’t take ourselves too seriously. We’re British, so we’ve got to have some sense of humor, really,” she said.

Rea fronted the group for its take of the Eurythmics’ “Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This),” with an amplified bass ukulele holding the rhythm under seven ukuleles of different pitches. “It’s a good way of detecting if a song is any good,” she said. “If you can play it on a ukulele, it’s a pretty good sign that it’s a decent song.”

From irony to mainstream

Despite the orchestra’s wide travels, it has never played in

Hawaii, the birthplace of the instrument initially modeled after a miniature Portuguese guitar.

The group is eager to make it to the island chain, but its failure so far to make it there is not entirely accidental. The orchestra avoids Hawaiian music — as well as songs of early 20th-century British film star and ukulele enthusiast George Formby — as it instead tries to surprise audiences.

But the ukulele has become less of an oddity for audiences since the band’s formation in 1985. Native Hawaiian artist Israel Kamakawiwo’ole found an international following in the 1990s with his mellow ukulele songs, while pop artists, notably the indie rock godfather Stephin Merritt, have found ample possibilities with the ukulele.

Orchestra member Dave Suich said he hoped the group has helped increase the popularity of the ukulele, especially in schools, where the little four-stringer has been giving stiff competition to the recorder as a first instrument for children. “People younger than 40 don’t know that it’s funny,” Suich said. “They just think you play an instrument.”—AFP ■

Chelsea Hotel’s storied doors go on auction thanks to homeless man

NEW YORK — More than 50 doors from New York’s fabled Chelsea Hotel that guarded the secrets of stars such as Janis Joplin, Leonard Cohen and Jimi Hendrix are going on sale, thanks to an enterprising former homeless man.

The unusual auction comes after the historic bohemian hangout closed in 2011 for extensive renovations, which will leave only the original facade of the 12-story hotel on 23rd Street. Since opening in 1884, the Chelsea Hotel became a refuge for writers and artists who would stay days, weeks or indefinitely. Among them were Mark Twain, Jack Kerouac, Bob Marley, Humphrey Bogart, Joni Mitchell, Madonna and Andy Warhol.

Cohen immortalized the building in his song “Chelsea Hotel No 2,” later revealed to be about a fling with Joplin, while the hotel gained notoriety when punk rocker Sid Vicious was charged with stabbing to death his girlfriend Nancy Spungen there.

Entering the story is a lesser-known resident, Jim Georgiou, who lived at the Chelsea Hotel from 2002 to 2011 when he was evicted for failing to pay rent. He moved nearly across the street from the hotel with his dog Teddy and tried to make a living by selling records.

In 2012, Georgiou spotted workers preparing to throw out old doors and managed to recover more than 50 of them with help from friends, said Arlan Ettinger, the president of auction house Guernsey’s, which will sell the mementoes on Thursday.

‘Great significance,’ at least for finder

“When you’re homeless, a door takes a great meaning, a great significance. It’s a portal to a home that a homeless person doesn’t have,” Ettinger told AFP. Georgiou started to visit a nearby library and spent hundreds of hours trying to connect the Chelsea Hotel doors with their residents. Number 105, for example, was the home of Edie Sedgwick, the model and muse of Warhol, who filmed some of his “Chelsea Girls” experimental film in the room. In total, Georgiou identified 22 of the doors for association with famous residents.

He approached Guernsey’s last year after unsuccessfully proposing the door sale to other auction houses. Georgiou no longer lives on the street as friends have provided him accommodation.

But even though he has little money, he will donate half of the proceeds from the auction to City Harvest, which distributes uneaten food from New York restaurants and markets to people in need.

Ettinger said he was unsure how much the auction would generate. “They are old, beat-up doors that don’t look very pretty but have incredible significance. It’s hard to estimate their value,” Ettinger said. “I’ve been running Guernsey’s for 43 years and I’ve never heard of something like this.” For now, the doors are on display at the Ricco/Maresca Gallery in the neighbourhood. “Each door will take a significant number of ghosts with them,” gallery owner Frank Maresca said.—AFP ■



A door to a room where actor Humphrey Bogart once resided — now up for sale in an unusual auction — is seen at the Ricco/Maresca Gallery in New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

Barcelona’s Senegalese street vendors present own clothing line

BARCELONA (Spain) — Senegalese street vendors staged a fashion show on Friday in Barcelona to present their own clothing line of “legal clothes made by illegal immigrants”, the slogan of their new campaign to get off the streets. Fifteen vendors showed their small collection of T-shirts and sweatshirts, which were

created in cooperation with the Design College of Barcelona.

A crowdfunding campaign collected 48,000 euros (\$59,000) to help set up their new association of Barcelona street vendors and launch the project in June 2017.

It aims to find alternative employment for 200 street vendors, who buy the counterfeit clothes

they sell from Chinese merchants, according rights platform Playground Do, which supports the project. “We want to show our value to those who do not want to see it. We want to contribute to the economy of Barcelona, which is our city,” said a spokesman for the street vendors, Aziz Faye, in a statement. —AFP ■

Yangon battles Yadanabon to a draw in Thuwunna thriller

YANGON United played Yadanabon to a 3-3 draw in an MPT Myanmar National League 2018 match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Yesterday's match between two former MNL champions was a thriller, with Mandalay-based Yadanabon attacking from the very start.

Yadanabon's Ye Ko Oo scored the first goal at the 8-minute mark, which sparked the Yangon strikers into activity to score an equaliser.

Yangon's Kyaw Zin Oo tied the score at 42 minutes, and the first half ended with a score of 1-1.

The excitement continued in the second half, resulting in sustained cheering and applause from the appreciative crowd at Thuwunna Stadium.

Yangon players focused on breaking the tie score, which they did at 60 minutes when Aee Soe made the go-ahead goal for the home team.

But Yadanabon equalised almost immediately at the restart with a goal at 61 minutes with a counter-attack by Myat Kaung Khant. Yadanabon then added another goal by Ye Ko Oo at 63



Yadanabon FC Keeper pushes aside the ball between the Yangon attackers and Yadanabon defenders in yesterday's MNL match at Thuwunna Stadium. **PHOTO:MNL**

minutes to take the lead.

At the 76-minute mark, the referee awarded a penalty shot,

and Yangon again equalised with Sekou Sylla's kick, and the match ended with a score of 3-3.

Yangon United stands at the top of the table from 10 plays, 7 wins, 2 draws, and 1 loss. Yadan-

bon is in fourth place with 10 plays, 4 wins, 4 draws and 2 losses.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

'Day to remember' as record-setting Rafa returns in style

PARIS — Rafael Nadal described his return to action as "a day to remember" after the 16-time Grand Slam winner pulled Spain level in their Davis Cup quarter-final against Germany.

Nadal, playing his first match since limping out of the Australian Open in January with a hip injury, beat Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 in just over two and half hours in Valencia, stretching his winning streak in the Davis Cup to a record 23 matches in singles and doubles.

The victory for the world number one in the Plaza de Toros bullring levelled the tie after world number four Alexander Zverev beat 33rd-ranked David Ferrer 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

"Of course, it's a positive thing to win in straight sets," said 31-year-old Nadal, who has not lost a singles match in the Davis



Cup since his 2004 debut and in doubles since 2005.

"I played a solid match. I feel good when I return to the clay courts," Nadal, building up to an assault on what he hopes will be an 11th French Open title, said it had been a special day playing on home ground again.

"It's a memorable day, in front of my own crowd. It's always special to play in these arenas," added Nadal, who has played in four of Spain's five Davis Cup-winning teams.

"It's great to be back even if after an injury it's always difficult."—AFP ■

Myanmar to host four-nation football tourney

Kyaw Zin Lin

IN preparation for the Asian Games in mid-August that will be hosted by Indonesia, Myanmar Football Federation officials are planning to host a Four Nation tournament earlier in the month in Myanmar, according to an official.

The Asian Games will be held from 18 August to 2 September.

The plan is to have the Myanmar Under-23 team play against three other ASEAN teams.

The Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has sent out invitations to Thailand and Indonesia.

The exact dates and a choice of a third country for the four-nation tourney has not yet been determined, according

to an official.

The 2018 Asian Games, or the 18th Asian Games, is a pan-Asian, multi-sport event, scheduled to be held in Indonesia.

Gelora Bung Karno Main Stadium in Jakarta will host the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games.

Jalak Harupat, Pankasari Patriot Chandrabhaga Stadiums are the football Stadium for the men's football.

For the first time, the Asian Games are being co-hosted in two cities; the Indonesian capital of Jakarta (which is hosting the Games for the first time since 1962), and Palembang, the capital of South Sumatra province.

Events will be held in and around the two cities, including sites in Bandung and the province of West Java. ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

8 APRIL 2018

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Khin Moh Moh Aung
Yadanabon University



Coolness in Hotness

SINCE Myanmar has many tropical regions or cities, most of the people want coolness. We, Myanmar people, are known as people who are grow up with festivals. Like this saying, we always keep in touch with festivals in every year, every month. Even though there is climate changes, there are no changes for Myanmar cultures and traditions. Starting from the beginning of the year, there are festivals till the end of the year. Since there are 135 ethnic groups in Myanmar, there are many different traditions and

cultures. Likewise, there are many different festivals which are held according to their traditions and cultures. Among them, I would like to illustrate a festival which is very famous among each and every ethnic group. This is “Thingyan Festival” also known as Water festival.

We, Myanmar people, cannot deny that each and every one participate in “Thingyan Festival” when it is held in Tagoo. In Tagoo which usually falls in the month of April, the weather is hot in Myanmar. Meanwhile, Thingyan Festival helps to make Myanmar people cool through

heart. Thingyan Festival is one of the Myanmar traditions which brings a lot of good things for Myanmar people. Children water the people who are passers-by of their houses and they wait them in front of their houses. Some of the children visit around their towns with their parents or guardians. Youths visit around their towns with open jeeps. Some of the youths just stay at home by watching the images of the Thingyan Festival on TV. Some of the youths, however, go to the monasteries with their parents or with their grandparents to keep precepts

on those great days. Old people go to the training classes in which the monks train them how to meditate to stable their mind, how to keep eight or nine precepts preached by the Lord Buddha, the enlightened one. Moreover, the monks train them how to control their mind. By doing so, people are doing good virtues.

Apart from these good virtues, some of the people do good deeds by holding a ceremony in which they provide rice and different good curries. Besides, they change their sons into monk and their daughters into nun. Some of the people just provide their neighbours foods like Myanmar desserts or drinks. Even though some of the people participate in the Thingyan Festival by doing good deeds, some spend those great days with wrong ideas

(drinking alcohol and beer which are even drunk by girls, wearing unsuitable dress with Myanmar traditions and quarreling with each other). Their behaviour can reflect bad image for Thingyan Festival, Myanmar tradition. To keep our tradition is our responsibility. So, we should try to keep our behaviour for our mother land's grace.

Thingyan Festival, makes Myanmar people cool even though the weather is full of heat. Each and every one can take part in Thingyan Festival or Water Festival without any worries and can believe that our worries, relief, sadness and all the evil things will be destroyed by the cool water of Thingyan Festival. Thusly, what I would like to convey you is that “Let's participate in Thingyan Festival by receiving coolness free from hotness”.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

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Time Together



"Bye Mom! Bye Dad!" Naw Naw yelled as her parents were going out to work. It was a hot summer day and a perfect day to go outside. Cho Cho, the second oldest sister had 25 dollars. "I'm not going outside" Phaw Phaw the oldest said as she was looking at her phone.

"Come on, please, can you go out?" Po Po, the youngest sister said with her cute, little eyes looking at Phaw Phaw. Phaw Phaw looked at her then her phone, "Sure, but maybe later?" she mumbled. "Yah!!!" Po Po yelled happily. "Let's have a picnic I will pack some food and water, later" Naw Naw decided. "OK!" Po Po and Cho Cho shouted at the same time.



"Time to go!" Naw Naw yelled holding a basket. "Coming!" Po Po said as she raced down the stairs. "Let's have a picnic to the Central Park."



They walked to Central Park. When they got there they found a nice shady place to have the picnic. Naw Naw prepared the picnic blanket while Cho Cho was taking out the snacks. Po Po was playing around.



After a few minutes, everything was perfect. There were 4 paper plates, paper cups and silverware. In the middle were sandwiches, cupcakes, and fruits.



"Let's eat" said Cho Cho. Po Po was already eating a cupcake. Naw Naw dragged Phaw Phaw to the picnic that was near a pond.



"Girls, look!" Po Po shouted pointing to a nearby bush where a dog and cat were fighting. "Stay away girls, let's just enjoy our picnic," Cho Cho said.



After the dog and cat finished fighting, everything was much better. They ate the snacks and talked. Even Phaw Phaw was having fun. It was a special moment for them.



Thune Kyal Cin
@ Claudia
Grade 4
(Yangon International School)



"Girls, I will tell you the truth, I love this picnic, it is amazing," Phaw Phaw complimented. "That is the first time I have heard," Cho Cho teased. They giggled together. "Phaw Phaw is right, this is great, we should do it more often."



"Yes! We should," Po Po said beaming. This time Phaw Phaw put away her phone. She seemed happy without her phone. "We should always have a picnic here, it is peaceful and quiet, we could feed ducks, collect flowers and many more" Phaw Phaw replied. "Yeah you are right, this is going to be one of the best places to visit, right?" Cho Cho asked. All of them nodded. Finally, Phaw Phaw said, "This is great to have some time together."

Summer is extremely hot; However hot...



Min Zaw Thit
Grade-8 (I.S.M)

Everyone says that summer is better or more pleasant than other seasons but some don't agree with it. Even though both have many advantages and disadvantages, we still adapt to them and live with them. Right now in Myanmar, summer is very hot but, you even see people in beaches swimming and relaxing in

the sunshine.

No matter how hot summer is, humans eventually adapt to this season. However hot, most people ignore the extreme temperature. We still do daily routines, relax, and get through the day. What's the point of saying: summer is extremely hot and etc. When you can't change it, there is no point in blaming the temperature. Look at beaches like Ngwe Saung and Chaung Tha, you can see many people swimming happily in the pool or relaxing well in the ocean in the sun. There might be some women or even men

who never like the sun. So, they don't go out. But, however hot summer is, people don't mind and just get through the day.

If you have your actions balanced, no matter how hot summer is, you still get through it. Even if some troubles are in your way, summer can have many pros and cons, like other seasons. So, you cannot change the fact that it is hot, so deal with it.

It is natural than we feel hot in summer; we get wet in the rainy season and suffer from cold in winter. All are eternal gifts of nature. Therefore, we can't keep

away from them. In any season, however hot, wet or cold it is, we all have to create our images by balancing the changes of nature.

As a result, a child can keep on playing, a youth can carry on learning and also an adult can go on enjoying himself or herself in lives. It is right. In fact, all humans can live long with the help of heat, water, air and other environments on the earth.

Thus, however hot just now, let's stand still and live long according to the colorful weather occurrence.

(CONTINUED FROM THE LAST WEEK)

In the last week's article, the author has mentioned about the Pillars of Education together with our Myanmar Philosophy of Learning and Education. As time changes, some Pillars are so rare that we do not need to just mention it but we need to follow it according to time and conditions.

And as an individual becomes more and more mature, we can see that the Philosophy of Education by the individual changes from time to time. The more educated an individual becomes, the more he comes to realize that

he needs to continue his learning. The more the point of view of an individual becomes wider and deeper, the more he realize that he should continue his learning.

As the saying in our Myanmar society, "We should find Education (or Learning) in our First Part of our lives (when we are children and youth); we should find Wealth in our Second Part of our lives (when we are adults); and we should find Dhamma (when we become old and ripe).

But, nowadays, it is not sufficient enough of what we have learnt in our childhood and youth, but we need to learn more and more

as the knowledge and Education burst out in high speed during these days. We all need to learn more and more on these newer and newer knowledge and technologies or we will find ourselves stay behind to others. So, not only in our childhood and youthful periods, we need to continue our learning even in our adulthood.

But, that is not the end of the story again.

When you become older and older, we have to continue our learning more and more, as there are still new technology and knowledge to learn. So, if one wants to be in line with others, one should never too late to learn more in the field where one has specialized. In this way, we go one learning even in our old age.

And one more thing is according to our Myanmar Buddhists' Belief, we need to find peace through meditation before we are not dying, for one can step into the last stage of one's life peacefully if and only if one have the practice of meditation in our life. That is what we can stay "we learn ways and means through meditation how to face death alone peacefully.

So, it is out of question that one needs to do or to practice meditation since young.

In this way, Learning never stops and ends; it continues according to time, burst-out knowledge and one's condition to know or learn something more. And it will go on continue like this up till the end of our lives.

That is why the vocabulary "Life-long Learning" comes into live at the present time.

Then, what are the consequences and benefits of this "Life-long Learning"?

The first one is that we all are always occupied with some kind of learning day after day. In this way, we lose our chance to become lazy and stagnant as we always have one or the other new ways and means of working and living in the present days.

And when teachers are always alert to learn more and more, they also come to the condition that we can teach or distribute our students the knowledge from a living waterfall, not from a stagnant pool.

The second one is as we continue our learning day by day, we do not notice that we become older and older and come to down-hearted just because of our old age. Instead, we can become older and older gracefully as time changes and we all come to realize ourselves that we become more and more mature and educated.

The third benefit is that we come to notice that we come to know more and more day after day and we are always alert with the modern technologies and knowledge and never left out behind. It is a very nice feeling when we grow old. Our knowledge never fades out according to time.

And as we are always alert and interested in what we are learning, we can maintain our health although we become older. That is the fourth benefit.

So, as we go on learning day after day, we can come to have a peaceful way of dying when it comes to its time. We can face death peacefully and courageously.

That is why we need to do "Life-long Learning" day after day.

And in this way, we should "Live to Learn and Learn to Live" during our days.

Why we need to "Live to Learn and Learn to Live"?

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

Life-long Learning

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

3





Taw Naw Waterfall in Kawkareik becomes a new leisure spot

The Taw Naw Waterfall along the Kawkareik-Myawaddy road in Kawkareik in Karen State opened a leisure spot on 1 April 2018. The Taw Naw Fall is the first waterfall that was discovered in Kawkareik and it takes about five minutes by car via the Asian road due to decent and modern thoroughfares. So, visitors from Kawkareik and Myawaddy townships visited the Taw Naw waterfall already. The origin of the Taw Naw waterfall is in the Dawna Mountain Range. It opened as a leisure spot so foreign and local tourists can take a break from their travels and enjoy the bucolic environment. There are many places to visit in Kawkareik including Taritakhaung natural lake, a natural hot spring in Ngartine Village and La Thar Inn has numerous displays of colorful flowers similar to Pyin Oo Lwin. Hopefully these spots of interest will attract more visitors in the future and boost tourism in Karen State.—MDN

Karen Wrist Tying Ceremony

By Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)

The Kayin is one the largest ethnic minorities of Myanmar, and the wrist tying festival they celebrate every year is a popular traditional event that showcases their identity and unity.

The ceremony, known as Lah Ku Kee Su, is usually held in the month of August, or Waso, of the Myanmar Era. The tradition symbolically unites the Kayin people together. Lah Ku means Waso, or August, and Kee Su describes the act of binding the wrist. Traditionally, the festival takes place at the end of the August full moon festival, but the timing is flexible.

Karen families across the country and communities around the world tie white threads around their wrists in the ceremony.

The festival has no religious significance, but rather has its roots in ancestral beliefs in spirits. It is believed that 37 spirits embody every individual from birth. Misfortune and sickness are believed to be caused by k'lar that wander away, and death occurs when all thirty-seven k'lar leave the body. The Kayin believe that binding a white thread around the wrist of a sick person will cure them, because the magical power of the white thread can drive away evil spirits. The thread has to be white because it represents the colour of good will. The tradition is also tied to the belief

that a single string of white thread can be cut easily, but a large number of strings bound together are much harder to sever. This illustrates the strong unity of the Kayin people and their commitment to reinforce Kayin identity and culture.

Five different foods are used in the ceremony. Seven balls of white rice signify the strength of the Kayin. One grain of rice is not as strong as a whole ball of rice. Seven bananas represents the loyalty and unity of the Kayin people, who have endured through thick and thin. This is related to the way bananas grow and prosper in large groups. Cold water is recognised as a symbol of peace for the people because of its cleansing properties. Branches of Nat Pan Nyo flower are included in order to illustrate the Kayin people's ability to prosper and lay down roots anywhere they go. Sugar cane represents moral values and good ethics as well as racial and ethnic tolerance.

The ceremony begins with traditional group dances and songs. The wrist-tying ceremony follows, in which seven grandmothers and seven grandfathers tie white threads on the wrists of young grandchildren. Leaders of the ceremony recite incantations in the Kayin language that invite the spirits to return from wherever they are roaming and to stay in the family and to drive the evil spirits out their families.



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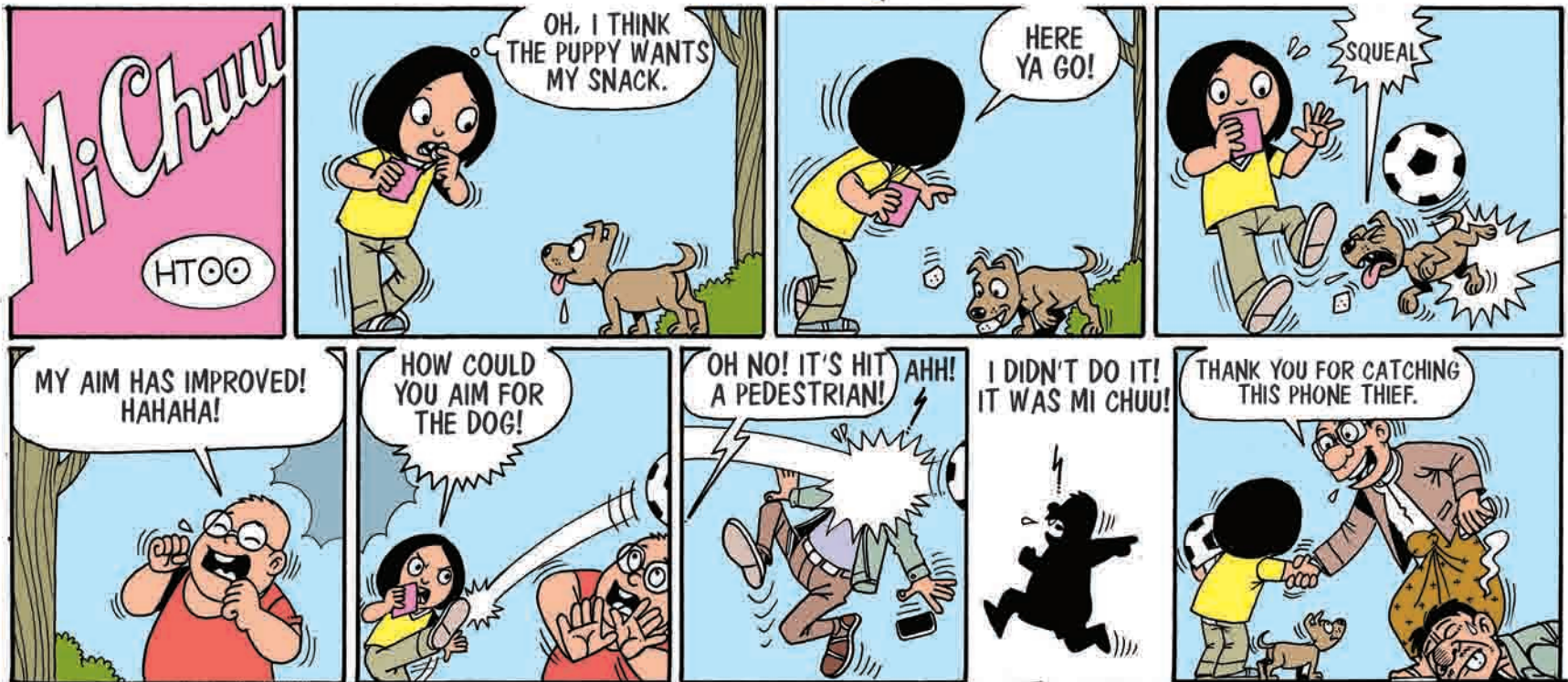
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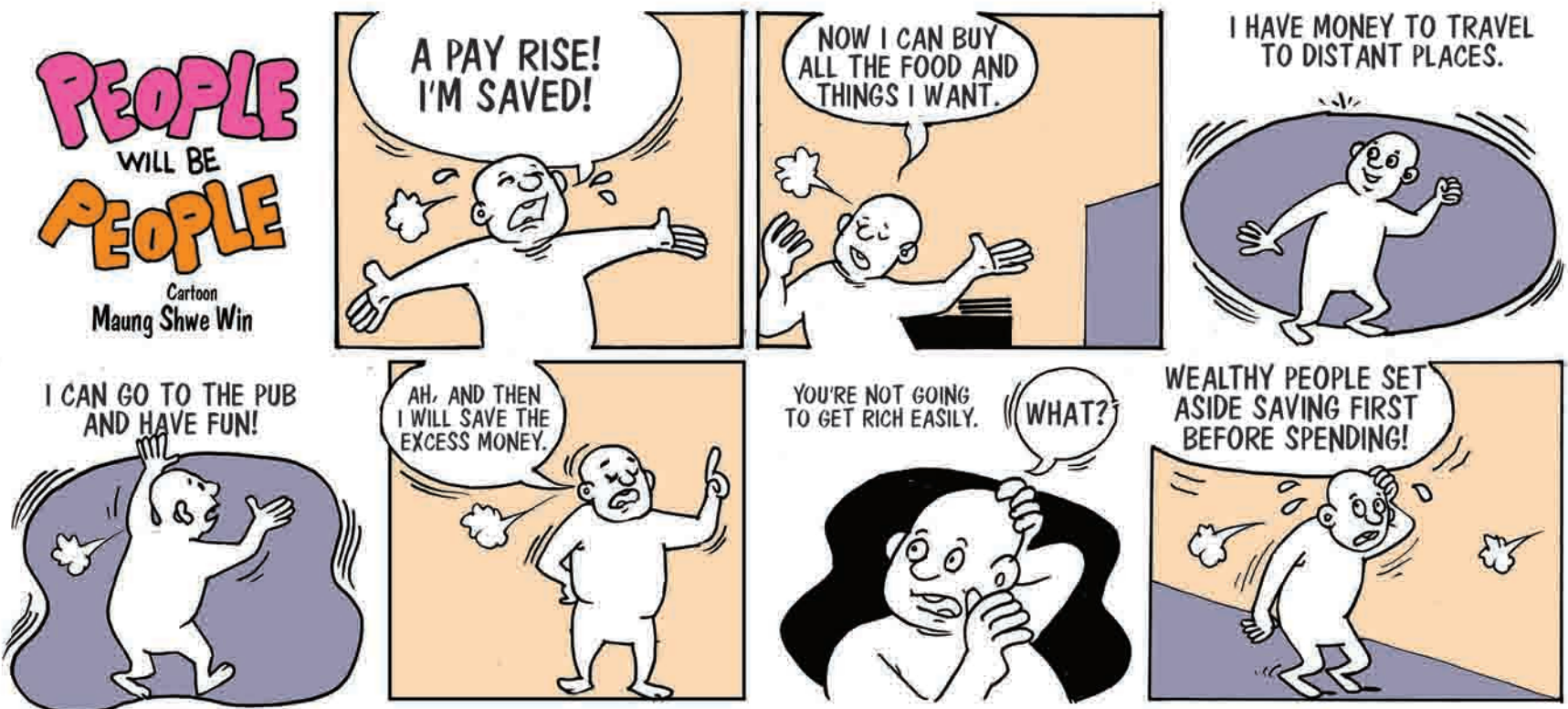
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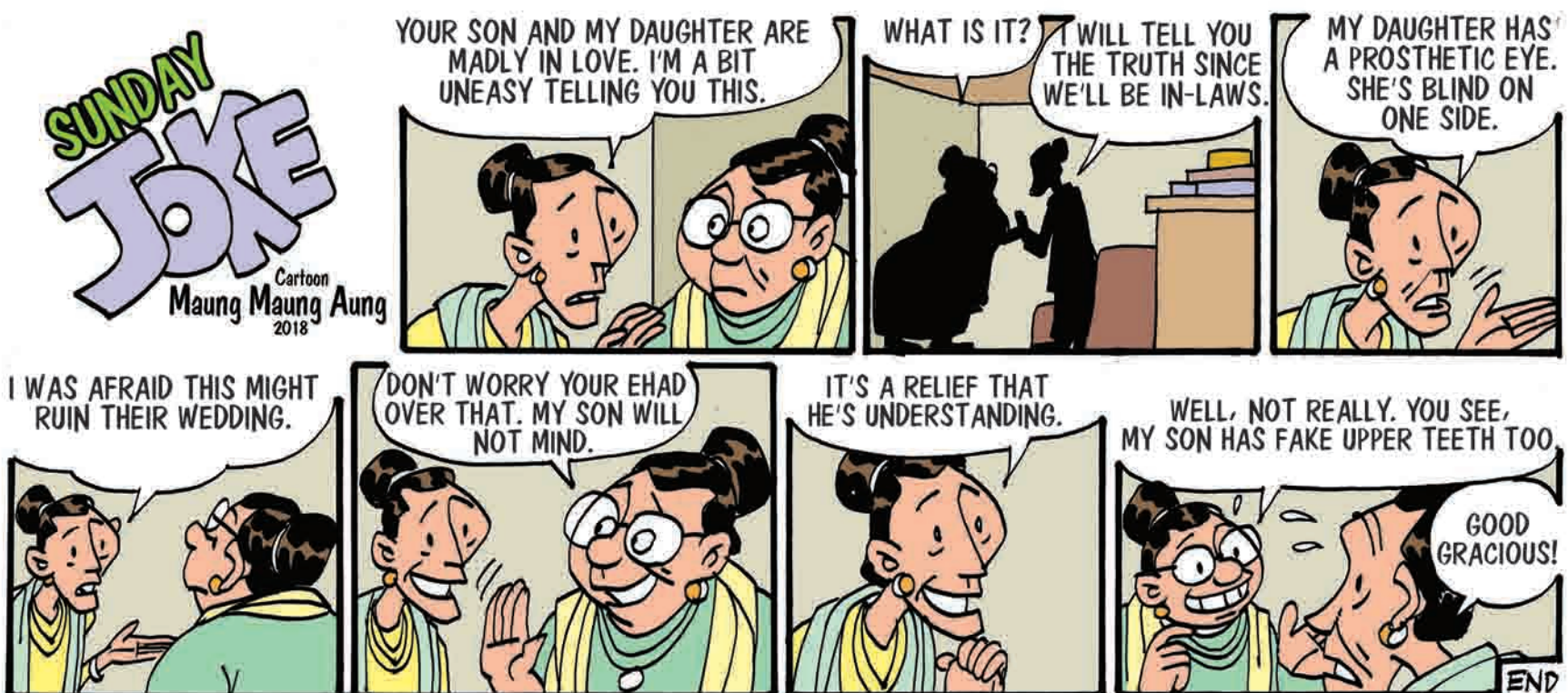
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SUNDAY JOKE

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2018



Animal-shaped beads of PYU



Tiger-shpaed bead
- 5cm [carnelian]

By Tin Win (Beikthano)

ALL the story of the beads of Pyu can only be covered in a book. That is why there will only be facts about animal-shaped beads of Pyu in this article. It can be said that the people of Pyu made the widest and most varied use of beads throughout the history of Myanmar. The different shapes of beads they used included those of elephant, tiger, turtle, frog, snail, lion, fish, bird, crocodile, cow, snake, goat, monkey, etc. Materials and stones used to make those animal-shape beads are carnelian (red and orange), agate (gray, red, yellow, white), fluoride (green), quartz (gray, red, yellow, white and black) and sometimes even gold.

Elephant-shaped beads are the most frequently and widely found, and are normally made of green fluoride and transparent quartz. Their sizes are from 1.5 cm to 3 cm. Tiger-shape beads are normally made of red or orange carnelian and 15 cm pieces are found as the biggest in size.

Turtle- and frog-shaped beads are made of red or orange carnelian and, black, gray or white agate. They are special in that thread holes are bored not lengthwise but width ways just behind the fore legs. Snail-shaped beads are normally made of agate and are small in size.



Snake-shpaed bead - 4cm [carnelian]



Crocodile-shpaed bead - 7cm [agate]

And most of the snail-shaped beads are made of gold. Crocodile, cow, snake, goat and monkey are rare shapes to be found. In Pyu era, people did not curve

beads in the likeness of animals in every detail and they just made a few strokes to get the outline figure of the respective animals.

What is special in making beads is the thread-hole boring technique. It is a wonder how they could bore a very tiny thread hole as small as a strand of hair in a curved path in very hard carnelian stone tiger-shaped bead of 15 cm in length.

Beads of Pyu are not made randomly according to the individual's ideas or choice but based on very systematic rules and regulations. It is found that all the methods, techniques, sizes and shapes are the same even though the beads are found in different places such as Han Linn, Min Buu, Pyaw Bwe, Vishniu, Hmaw Zar, Toontae and Mawlamyine, which are far from each other.

That the big tiger-shaped beads depicting a mother tiger with the baby tiger in the her mouth are very similar to each other though they are found in different places and that the turtle-shaped beads in agate are cut in such a way that the eye-shaped black circle falls on the back of the turtle show that people of Pyu made these animal-shaped beads not only for accessories but also as religious symbols, talismans or magical observances.



Turtle-shpaed beads - 3cm [carnelian (L), agate (R)]



Monkey-shpaed bead - 3.5cm [carnelian]



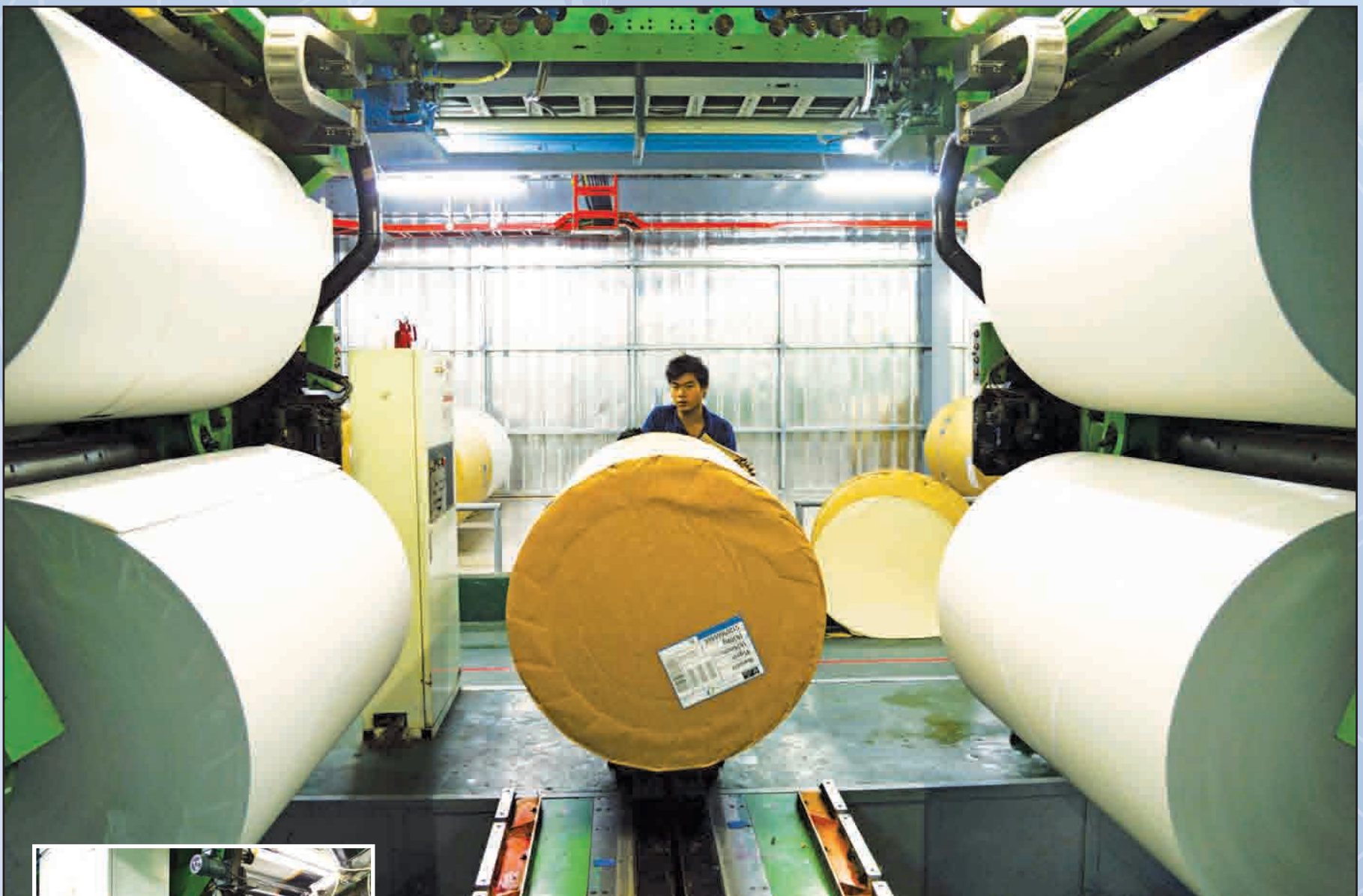
Frog-shpaed bead - 2.5cm [agate]

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