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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## 19<sup>th</sup> Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conf. to be held on 29 Nov. in Nay Pyi Taw



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the meeting to organize the 19<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**A** STEERING committee and a work committee held a coordination meeting to organize the 19<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference (19<sup>th</sup> MTMPC) at the meeting hall in Office No. 4, Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Vice President U Myint Swe in his capacity as patron of the steering committee addressed the meeting.

In addressing the meeting,

the Vice President said that on 29 November 2018, the Office of the President has formed an 8-member steering committee to successfully organize the 19<sup>th</sup> MTMPC and assigned six tasks. To successfully implement these tasks, a work committee and nine sub-committees were formed and these committee and sub-committees have been conducting their respective tasks.

The day's meeting was to discuss, cooperate and coordi-

Over 380 delegates from states and regions will gather at 19<sup>th</sup> MTMPC ...

nate toward successfully holding the 19<sup>th</sup> MTMPC in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 December 2018. The conferences have been held annually

without fail since 2000 with six in Yangon and 12 in Nay Pyi Taw, making up a total of 18 conferences. All these conferences were held successfully not by the Ministry of Health and Sports alone but with the cooperation and assistance of other related ministries. Therefore, it was expected that all would cooperate and assist as they have always done to successfully conduct the 19<sup>th</sup> MTMPC, said the Vice President. The 19<sup>th</sup> MTMPC was being held

with the aim of all-round development of the Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners' community and increasing the quality of Myanmar traditional medicine; raising the ethics and dignity of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners; to provide more public health protection through Myanmar traditional medicine; and development of Myanmar traditional medicine to improve Myanmar traditional medicine.

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## Pyithu Hluttaw

## Pyithu Hluttaw: Pesticide regulations, stockpiling crops and plant species

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

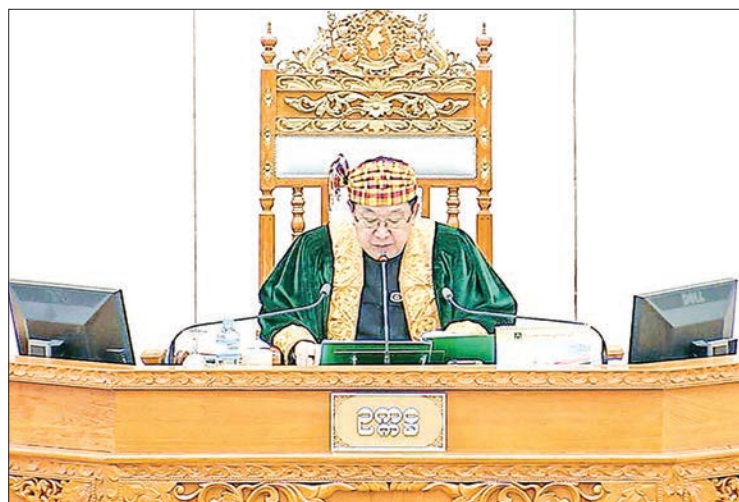
THE 11<sup>th</sup> -day of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session was held yesterday. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, U Hla Kyaw, replied to starred questions.

## Crop protection product regulations

U Myint Han Tun from Budalin constituency raised a question asking who is authorized to inspect the quality of pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, crop seeds and topsoil on the market, and what processes will be followed on the request to investigate suspicious products on the market.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw replied that businesses and organizations interested in the seed business or are currently engaged in it have to first apply for a seed recognition certificate and then apply for a seed business license that only permits dealings with the crop seeds they have a certificate for. Only then can they produce and distribute crop seeds in accordance with The Seed Law, said the deputy minister.

He explained that businesses that want to import pesticides have to submit a sample product to the license verification board



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

where it will be examined at a laboratory on whether it reaches set standards. He said if all requirements are met, then a license is issued along with a permit from the Department of Agriculture. He said the board also inspects every import shipment to see if it matches the specifications of the submitted sample product during the examination. The shipments are only allowed to leave the port and enter the market after passing these inspections, said the deputy minister.

The deputy minister said farmers can send a product they are suspicious about to the local agriculture department in accord with the rules and regulations.

He said if the product does not match prior standards then the matter is relayed to a relevant committee for further action. He added that they provide educational programs and training to pesticide sellers.

## No plan to map freshwater lakes yet

U Sai Aung Naing from Kyonpyaw constituency raised a question asking whether there are plans to detail the map boundaries of freshwater lakes in the Ayeyawady Region. The deputy minister said there are currently no plans to undertake the project as the necessary budget for it has not been submitted in the 2018-

2019 fiscal year proposal. However, the project will be included in the Ayeyawady Region government's fund proposal for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, he added.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw also replied to questions raised by U Myo Zaw Oo from Lewe constituency, Dr. U Lin Lin Kyaw from Myittha constituency, U Sai U Kham from Hsenwi constituency and U Khin Zaw from Kawthoung constituency.

## Education Promotion Committee reads a report

Next, U Kham Khant Htan, secretary of the Pyithu Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee, read the committee's report evaluations. The report said if the departments under the Ministry of Education (MOE) communicated their processes with the education promotion committee then education reforms can be better achieved. It said the MOE should disseminate how it has resolved the committee's reports in a transparent way.

The report said Hluttaw representatives are primarily in contact with the people and can uncover their education requirements to better fulfill them. It also said the committee is working together with international education organizations, scholars, pro-

fessors and experts to exchange experiences and establish a sustainable education system with international standards.

Speaker U T Khun Myat then announced for MPs interested in discussing the report to register their name.

## Another report, a bill discussed

Next, Daw Mar Mar Khine from Thaton constituency, U Thaug Htay Lin from Patheingyi constituency and U Lone Jone San Mai from Sumprabum constituency discussed a report from the Pyithu Hluttaw Farmers' and Workers' Affairs Committee.

The committee's chairman, U Kyaw Myint, replied to the MPs' discussions and then tabled a motion for the assembly to approve the report. The Speaker called for the deliberation of the Hluttaw.

The Speaker then announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw has sent back the Industrial Design Copyright Bill with amendments and Bill Committee secretary U Stephen submitted a report. The Speaker announced for MPs interested in discussing the report and submitting amendments for the bill to register their names.

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## Amyotha Hluttaw

## Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds its eleventh day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

The tenth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its eleventh-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the session, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered and a motion was tabled and approved.

During the session on asterisk-marked questions, U Ye Htut of Sagaing Region constituency 5 asked the Union Government whether it plans to pay the same pension to retired civil servants, regardless of their years in retirement, rank, and service years.

The Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, U Maung Maung Win, replied that the government will make a decision on pensions after reviewing the State Funds.

"The matter of increasing pensions is still being considered by the government since its de-



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

cision to increase pay in April 2018. The Union Government will consider raising pensions only after the increase in pay scales comes into effect," he said.

U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2 asked the Union Government if it plans to check the distribution of lottery tickets. He said the State has lost monthly

revenues while people have to buy lottery tickets for K650 or K700, and as a consequence, lottery ticket sellers are earning lower incomes.

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win said the Government will review the distribution of lottery tickets, while making arrangements to prevent price rise

and improve the lottery management system.

Daw Thiri Yadana of Mon State constituency 12 tabled a motion urging the Union Government to put an end to wildlife trafficking in a timely manner by initiating severe action against traffickers. Hluttaw representatives discussed the motion.

U Win Aung of Sagaing Region constituency 3 and Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency 10 supported the motion. Dr. Kyaw Ngwe of Magway Region constituency 10 and U Zaw Hein of Thaninthayi Region constituency 7 participated in the discussion on the motion.

Speaking on the motion, the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Dr. Ye Myint Swe, said 23 educative talks on wildlife conservation were conducted in 2018, and the government tried to raise awareness on the issue

by distributing pamphlets and posters, and launching radio and television programs.

"The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation will make concerted efforts to conserve elephants and increase fines," said Dr. Ye Myint Swe.

He added that the motion could be approved because continuous efforts are needed and cooperation between the relevant ministries and local people is of great importance in protecting wildlife.

Afterwards, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and announced that the motion was approved.

The Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session will hold its twelfth meeting on 11 December. (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

# Confiscated farmland returned to 25 farmers in Waingmaw



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers an address at the ceremony to return confiscated farmland to farmers in Waingmaw, Myitkyina District yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

OVER 110 acres of confiscated farmland released by a local battalion was returned to 25 original owners in Waingmaw Township, Myitkyina District, yesterday in the presence of Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

Speaking at the ceremony held at the City Hall in Myitkyina, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands, pledged that the farmers would get land use rights guaranteed by the 2012 Farmland Law to sell, pawn, lease, exchange and give to successors.

At the ceremony, authorities issued temporary land use permits to the farmers.

In order to develop infrastructure for the country including establishing airports and to increase security, urban areas

were expanded, special economic zones and industry zones were constructed, permission granted to departments, companies and private business to conduct agriculture and animal breeding projects were expanded and established resulting in farmlands being confiscated causing much losses to farmers.

To solve the confiscated land issues, the Union Government formed the national level committee and adopted 52 policies, and the Nay Pyi Taw Council region/state/district/township/ward and village level committees are solving the issues in respective areas.

As the land issue is complicated, those who are participating in solving land issues at different levels are urged to provide fair and just solutions in accordance with the law and policies, said the Vice President.

He continued to say that the Union Government has also assisted in selling agricultural produce at the export markets so that local farmers could earn

regions and states.

In his concluding remarks, Vice President U Henry Van Thio urged the farmers to work hard to promote the standard of

## Farmers would get land use rights guaranteed by the 2012 Farmland Law to sell, pawn, lease, exchange and give to successors.

good income.

The Vice President has urged the farmers to turn their traditional agricultural practices to modern farming methods in attempts to minimize the loss and wastages as the government was encouraging contract farming and establishing wholesale markets for crops in

living and production capacity realizing that the agricultural sector on which they are working accounts for over 70 per cent of the population. He added that the agricultural sector played an important role in the economy of the country.

Dr Khet Aung, Chief Minister of Kachin State, reported on

the status of solving confiscated land issues in the state.

Afterwards, Lt-Col Kyaw Myo Win of the Ministry of Defence handed over the documents related to the farmland released by the ministry to Administrator of Myitkyina District General Administration Office U Khaung Lan Di.

Afterwards, Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, Deputy Ministers Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe, Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Kyaw Lin, member of the Kachin State Cabinet U Mya Thein, Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint and U Win Khant presented the land use permit form 7 to the farmers.

Following the ceremony, the Vice President visited the One Stop Service office in Myitkyina and viewed the public services there. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

# Union Election Commission Chair attends MySoP Alumni Weekend ceremony

CHAIRMAN of the Union Election Commission (UEC), U Hla Thein, delivered the opening speech at the ceremony marking Alumni Weekend of the Myanmar School of Politics (MySoP) programme in Dawei Beauty Hotel in Maungmagan beach yesterday evening.

The MySoP programme is conducted by the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) and the Political Parties of Finland Democracy (Demo Finland), which have signed an MoU with the UEC.

In his speech, the UEC chair said that to hold a free and fair election, support a multi-party system, and have election re-

sults consistent with the people's wishes, everyone in areas related to the electoral sector, including election commissions, political parties, civil society organizations, voters, ministerial departments, and international organizations must be united and work hand in hand. He said they began collaborations with NIMD/Demo Finland in 2014 and signed the MoU in June 2015 with an extension signed on 26 September 2017.

He said the UEC is providing support to build the capacity of the politicians from registered parties, promote a culture of multi-party dialogue platforms, and open courses in Myanmar



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein delivers opening speech at the closing ceremony of MySoP Alumni Weekend program yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

politics. As of today, there have been 13 core courses with over 20 political party leaders from

Taninthayi Region, Mon, Kayin and Kayah states attending. He said there have been 6 alum-

ni gatherings, with previous gatherings held in Nay Pyi Taw, Dawei, Toungoo, Hpa-an, Bago, and Bagan. He said he believes the alumni will be able to form a strong network and collaborate with understanding and trust.

Next, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr. Le Le Maw delivered a speech.

Attending the event were the Taninthayi Region cabinet members, officials from the Netherlands Embassy in Myanmar, the chairman of the regional election commission and its members, and the trainers and 200 students of MySoP. —Taninthayi Region IPRD ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses DSA 60<sup>th</sup> Intake Graduation



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the salute of graduation parade of the 60<sup>th</sup> Intake of the Defence Services Academy in Pyi Oo Lwin yesterday.  
**PHOTO: OFFICE OF C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing addressed the passing-out ceremony of Defence Services Academy (DSA) 60<sup>th</sup> Intake held at the DSA parade ground in Pyin Oo Lwin yesterday morning.

Also present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Thiri Pyanchi Kyaw Swe and wife, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thiri Pyanchi Ye Aung and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyawhtin Tin Aung San and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air Force) General Zeya Kyawhtin Maung Maung Kyaw and wife, senior military officers and their wives, the Command Commanders, the commandant of the DSA, senior military officers from Pyin Oo Lwin cantonment, military attachés, invited guests and parents and relatives of the graduate cadets.

First, the Senior General

took the salute of the graduate cadet battalions and inspected them. Next, the cadet battalions saluted the Senior General with slow-march past and quick-march past.

The Senior General then presented Best Cadet Award to Cadet Aung Khant Min, Outstanding Award in Training to Cadet Kaung Htat, Outstanding Award in Literature (Arts) to Cadet Soe Yan Naing, Outstanding Award in Literature (Science) to Cadet Nyi Nyi Naing and Outstanding Award in Literature (Computer) to Cadet That Khaing Htoo.

In his address to the graduating cadets the Senior General said that when serving as Gazetted officers in respective corps and services proper leadership had to be provided to the troops. Leadership should be of such that the troops believe, depend and follow you as one. True leaders are those who lived and acted in an exemplary way to earn the respect and love of the troops and other people in the vicinity. A leader is one who

acts like a parent, commander, teacher, relative, comrade on the sub-orderlies. You are to lead systematically with correct leadership, commands and orders that are in accordance with the law and fair decisions to develop your troops. It is essential for you to perform your duties in accordance with the sixteen leadership qualities.

Military personnel are appointed to abide by the military discipline, rules and procedures. They also need to abide by the civilian laws, international military law and rules of engagement (ROE). As per the Tatmadaw Service regulation, only 18 years old, in other words, those who have reached the voting-age can be recruited into the Tatmadaw. There is no excuse for not knowing this in recruiting and anyone who violates this will be punished. You are to know and abide by military and civil laws, rules, commands and regulations. You will get the rights and protection accordingly. Therefore, as junior leaders, you are to be an example to your

troops and sub-orderlies and ensure that they also abide by the laws, rules, commands and regulations.

You are to continuously study and improve your skills in the military arts and science. As ethnic nationals from states and regions are serving in the Tatmadaw, all need to have a mindset of living in a family with unity. More can be achieved with the collective strength of the Tatmadaw, its families and the people and anything can be overcome. To obtain the collective strength of the people, emphasis must be placed on conducting out of unit organization.

A just war with the participation of the people is the only way in which all invasions will be repulsed a hundred percent. As such, when conducting out of unit organization to make the people and Tatmadaw as one, you all must abide by the rules and regulations. You are to participate in regional development works. If there are any natural disasters or calamities, you are

to provide timely support and assistance regardless of the populace being the minority, their ethnicity, race and religion. Conduct all welfare and beneficial works for the people with the mindset of the people being your parents, father and mother, said the Senior General.

After delivering his speech, the Senior General took the salute of graduate cadet battalions and left the passing-out ceremony.

Afterwards the Senior General met and delivered a speech to honor the five outstanding cadets and their parents at the DSA guest hall.

Later in the evening Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the graduation dinner of DSA 60<sup>th</sup> Intake at the parade ground of Anawrahta Battalion in Pyin Oo Lwin Defence Services Academy according to news released from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Union Minister signs book of condolences for former US President George H.W. Bush

THE UNION MINISTER for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin signed the book of condolences for former President of the United States of America, George H.W. Bush, at the American Center, Kamayut Township, Yangon, yesterday afternoon.

Former US President, George H.W. Bush, was 94 years old when he passed away on 30 November. A book of con-

dolences for the former US President was opened at the American Center, Yangon. Visitors signed the book from 9 am to 5 pm on 4 and 5 December and 9 am to 3 p.m. on 6 December. Union Minister U Kyaw Tin signed the book yesterday afternoon.

George H.W. Bush served as the US President from 1989 to 1993. —MNA ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin signs the books of condolences for former US President George H.W. Bush at the American Center in Kamayut Township, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

# MIC approves six investment proposals; to create over 4,000 jobs

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) yesterday approved six investment proposals, which can create over 4,000 job opportunities.

The proposals approved by the MIC at its meeting (20/2018) include six projects on hotel services, network facilities services,

manufacturing of garments on CMP basis, assembling, manufacturing and sale of motor vehicles, and generation of electricity from bioenergy.

The meeting was attended by U Thaung Tun, the Chairman of the MIC, and 12 members.—GNLM



Myanmar Investment Commission Chairman U Thaung Tun holds meeting with MIC members in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## MYSAP to help boost fish production in Shan State

By Nyein Nyein

THE Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Programme (MYSAP) will push for aquaculture research and increased production of fish in Shan State. Although the state has the resources, it is not yet self-sufficient in fish production and has to rely on supply from other regions, according to the MYSAP.

The Thanlwin River and its tributary, and the Inle Lake are the main fish resources in Shan State. As production in the state is not enough to meet the demand, it usually depends on Yangon, Mandalay, and Ayeyawady regions for supply of fish, according to the MYSAP.

The MYSAP 2017-2022 is being jointly implemented by the Fisheries Department and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ).

The project has received 22.25 million euros in funding from the European Union and the GIZ.

In Shan State, the MYSAP will focus on activities to develop fisheries and boost production to help fulfil the requirements of small fish production businesses and the market.

“Starting from the first year of the MYSAP, we have been conducting programmes on nutrition, food security, and self-sufficiency, along with vocational training. We have joined hands with related organizations to conduct the Shan State Forum for Sustainable Fish Production regularly,”

said Peter Buri, the head of the MYSAP.

The MYSAP and the Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD) are jointly drafting the National Aquacul-

**The MYSAP will focus on activities to develop fisheries and boost production to help fulfil the requirements of small fish production businesses and the market.**

ture Development Plan (NADP). To discuss challenges and invite suggestions for the NADP, the First Shan State Forum for Sustainable Fish Production was held at Taunggyi University last Thursday.

The forum was jointly organized by the Shan State Fisheries Department, the Taunggyi University, the CESD, the Shan State Fishery Federation, and World Fish. The forum aimed to connect fish farmers who have

limited access to fish farming technology.

“The stakeholders in the aquaculture sector in Shan State rarely meet to discuss current challenges and possible cooperation. The state’s

Fisheries Department is supporting the first Shan State Forum for Sustainable Fish Production to establish a platform for cooperation on research and development activities among the aquaculture stakeholders in

the state,” said U Tin Htun Linn, the Director of the Department of Fisheries, Shan State.

The Taunggyi University will play a critical role in conducting research and development activities for sustainable fish production in the state.

“The Zoology Department of the university will conduct research on hatchery production methods, biodiversity, and aquaculture at the Inle Lake. We will also explore market competitiveness between mrigal and carp found in the lake,” said Professor Daw Nwe Nwe San from the university’s Zoology Department.

The MYSAP seeks to support the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector, and help it realize its potential for supporting food security, nutrition, and livelihoods.

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

## Japan offering high price for butter beans, growers must ensure low pesticide residue levels: Traders

JAPANESE traders are purchasing Myanmar’s butter beans or lima beans at a high price, but growers need to ensure pesticide residue levels do not exceed 30 ppm as that can hurt trade, said local merchants.

Suppliers need to practice warehouse pest control procedures and good grain storage techniques for beans meant for exports, they said.

At present, Myanmar exports butter beans to Japan, China, Denmark, Singapore, the

Republic of Korea, Malaysia, China (Taipei), and Viet Nam. The country has shipped more than 30,000 tons of butter beans so far this year.

At present, a ton of butter bean is selling at around K700,000 in the Mandalay, Monywa, and Muse markets.

There are over 160,000 acres of butter bean plantations in Myanmar. The total yield is about 100,000 tons. The butter beans are grown in June and July for the monsoon growing

season and harvested in October and November. The winter season begins in October and November and beans are harvested January-March.

Butter beans are primarily cultivated in the Sagaing, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, and Ayeyawady regions, and Mon and northern Shan states. Magway Region produces good-quality butter beans, which are preferred by Japanese buyers. —GNLM

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

## Climbing perch reared over 90 days suitable for sale: farmers

CLIMBING perch reared for over 90 days in local fish farms are suitable for sale in the domestic market, said fish farmers in the Ayeyawady Region.

“The size of a larva of climbing perch is normally one inch. After over 90 days in the farm, the size of the fish increases to six or eight inches. Its weight increases to 6-7 viss (one viss=3.6 lbs). This is a suitable weight to sell in the market,” said Ko Tay Za, a fish farmer from Inma Village.

A viss of climbing perch fetches K8,000-K10,000 in the domestic market, he said.

Ko Tay Za said he bought climbing perch larvae at a price of K65 per larva, and his farm has around 40,000 larvae.

“I use a bag of fish feed per day. Currently, a bag of fish feed is selling at K27,000 in the local market, which is quite expensive for farmers,” he said.

Residents said there are several small-scale climbing perch breeding farms in Inma Village, Pantanaw Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region.—Maung Chit Oo (Pantanaw)

*(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

# 19<sup>th</sup> Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conf. to be...

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MTMPC was also held with the aim of establishing new treatments and cures through increasing research, eradicating of bogus practitioners, following of medical ethics and practices, expanding herbal gardens in the country, increase the planting of medicinal herbs, and training and producing of qualified traditional medicine practitioners.

The President sends a message whenever the annual MTMPC was held. A day before the conference was

held, a pre-conference discussion would be held and the conference would start after the opening ceremony. In the evening a dinner would be hosted and the conference would continue the next day, said the Vice President.

It is learnt that the conference will be attended by Hluttaw representatives, representatives of union ministries, Traditional Medicine Council members, members of traditional medicine advisory groups, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioner Association members, traditional med-

icine producers association members, representatives of local non-governmental organizations and over 380 states and regions conference delegates.

Based on past experiences of conducting the conference annually, all need to strive hard so that nothing is amiss, said the Vice President.

Next, Steering Committee chairman and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe explained about the works conducted so far to achieve good results at the conference. Steering Committee secretary Ministry of Health

and Sports Permanent Secretary Dr. Thet Khaing Win explained about forming of work committees and sub-committees, works assigned, conference agenda, attendee list, arrangements to submit proposals and commendations, and cooperation arrangements of committees and sub-committees. Meeting attendees also provided sector wise suggestions and discussions.

Finally, Steering Committee Patron Vice President U Myint Swe gave comments and advice to ensure proper coordination based on the dis-

cussions and suggestions presented. The meeting came to a close after the Vice President delivered a closing remark.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein, Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee Chairman Dr. San Shwe Win, Amyotha Hluttaw Health, Sports and Cultural Affairs Committee Chairman Dr. Zaw Lin Htut, Permanent Secretary Dr. Tha Tun Kyaw, members of the Steering Committee, the Work Committee and nine sub-committees. — MNA ■

## President's Office clarifies on MPC dinner live streaming post

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE held yesterday afternoon spokesperson Director General U Zaw Htay from the Office of the President said that during a dinner hosted in honor of Myanmar Press Council (MPC) members, the State Counsellor discussed with emphasis on the ethical media ought to have and follow.

The bi-weekly press conference is a regular press conference where the spokesperson from the Office of the President Director General U Zaw Htay explained about current affairs.

Director-General U Zaw Htay said at the press conference that he attended the dinner hosted in honor of MPC members in Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw. Matters of ethics were discussed with the MPC members there. The discussion emphasized on the ethical media ought to follow. There is a lack of responsibility in social media. He was at the event and it was a dinner hosted to honor MPC members. All media, including state-owned were at the event only to take photographs of the event. After the photo op the media had to leave the event. But a media person did a live broadcast of the event.

The person who did the live broadcast should think why he/she was there? They were there to be honored as MPC members. And those who are honored should be honorable and follow ethics.

If media is permitted, the news should be published as a media. They need to have a proper identification as media



Director-General U Zaw Htay gives the press conference at the Office of the President. PHOTO: MNA

personnel, must pass through news media x-ray gate, stay where media is allowed. There should be such differentiation. That is what ethics is, explained

only as it was happening everywhere in every country. She was just saying something openly and this was broadcast live.

There are some civilities

**The State Counsellor was just asking a question openly and in a friendly manner. This was not something that happens here only as it was happening everywhere in every country.**

the Director General.

He continued and said that the State Counsellor was just asking a question openly and in a friendly manner. This was not something that happens here

and courtesies that everyone must have. Politeness and courtesy must be maintained. If the MPC members could not differentiate this the question will be how they will differentiate on

ethical matters? However, we will not blame anyone on this.

Another matter on that day is the example the State Counsellor set up to illustrate the point. She cited the Guardian newspaper. The news was published in our Information Committee. With regard to fake news, her example was about foreigners torturing a child in Cambodia which was published as being happening in Rakhine State. The State Counsellor spoke of fake news on Myanmar being published by big foreign media. She was discussing on how local media will respond to fake news. However it is regrettable to see a misunderstanding that came out. Media ought to review what ethics is and he hoped the Council would go

forward without arguing, said the Director General on what the State Counsellor discussed when she met with MPC members.

Director-General U Zaw Htay added that in the past newspapers were read in the morning but nowadays, the surfing was done on smart phones. We watch and read what is coming out in the social media.

That was why news agencies are following Facebook. It is becoming a new media platform. Media has to follow this because it is following where the public goes. They use this to give a message to the public. Digital marketing is becoming popular. Print media could not oppose them.

Cooperation with the government is also required. This is the future of Main Stream Media and Social Media. Main Stream Media will come on-board Social Media. For example 70 percent of visitors visit CNN facebook while only 30 percent of visitors visit CNN Website. It is undeniable that Social Media is becoming a media and the best is to integrate.

Posts on Facebook are unsubstantiated and unconfirmed. It is substantiated and confirmed at the Official Page. Broader sense for media literacy will include digital literacy. When the people get more access to online, they'll know how to differentiate between accurate and fake news. The next generation will be better than us, said the Director General. — MNA ■

## Pyithu Hluttaw: Pesticide regulations, stockpiling crops and plant species

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Motion to establish strategic crop reserve

Afterwards, U Sein Win from Maubin constituency tabled a motion on behalf of the Pyithu Hluttaw urging the Union govern-

ment stock up and store regional plant species, fruits and vegetables, grains, rice and rations in response to climate change.

He explained that if plants and commercial crops were stored as a backup then they can be used to restore the crops in an

area in time if any losses were caused by natural disasters or manmade issues. He said if there was a national grain reserve then the government can stabilize the market when needed and export to foreign markets on time. He said this is one solution to the

possible food shortage that can occur as a consequence of climate change.

The motion was supported by U Aung Thaung Shwe from Buthidaung constituency.

Speaker U T Khun Myat then received the deliberation of the

Hluttaw to discuss the motion. He called for MPs interested in discussing the motion to register their names. The 12th day of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 11 December. (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## International Anti-Corruption Day commemorated in Yangon

AN event commemorating International Anti-Corruption Day was held at Rose Garden Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning. The event was jointly facilitated by Anti-Corruption Commission of Myanmar (ACC), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). ACCM Chairman U Aung Kyi read a message from President U Win Myint and then delivered the opening speech. In his speech, U Aung Kyi said we need to exercise caution because in today's technologically advanced digital age, the click of a button can move large sums of money and one incident in the country can be easily spread to the international community. He said corruption is the main cause of human trafficking, illegal drug trafficking, money laundering, transnational crime, and illegal trade threatens the security and stability of civil society.

The ACCM Chair said we must all cooperate in the fight against corruption as the strength of one country alone is not enough, regardless of whether it is a major country or small nation, poor or rich. He said the UN Anti-Corruption Convention



Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission Chair U Aung Kyi and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein observe documentary photos of the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission. **PHOTO: MNA**

was signed with the aim to collaborate together on combating corruption in the global countries. He said it won't be long until a universal ratification emerges as the official confirmation rate of the convention is proceeding at a rapid pace. U Aung Kyi said the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the convention brings us together to push back corruption under this year's theme of 'United against Corruption'. It means to show the unity of the global countries by implementing and following the

codification in the strong contract like the convention he said.

While imposing the Strategic Plan against Corruption (2018-2021), we need to act on anti-corruption as a national cause by implementing a clean government and good administration system, promote dignity and accountability in the administrative mechanism, protect state property, civil society and the rights and livelihoods of the citizens with the combined efforts of government departments and the public.

Next, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, UNODC Country Manager Mr. Troels Vester, and Head of UNDP's Governance & Sustainable Peace Unit Mr. Joerg Stahlhut delivered separate speeches. Following this were performance by the three kindergarten student groups who won first, second and third place for 'Mhan Tar Go Pyaw Par' (Please say the truth) poem play.

Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, the regional chief minister, and regional Hluttaw

Speaker awarded prizes and certificates to the six students who won first, second and third place for their compositions on International Anti-Corruption Day and to the 15 students who won first to third place for the poem play. The ACCM Chair also conferred prizes and certificates to 13 university students who received ethics compliance certificates from UNDP and UNODC.

Afterwards, a documentary video on the ACCM's work implementation process was shown. The attendees then took documentary photos and toured the documentary photos of the commission, cartoons, articles and legal ethics book displayed in the hall. Present at the event were the Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, ACCM members, Ambassadors and dignitaries from foreign embassies, Chairman of UMFC-CI and executives, experts, authoritative organizations from Yangon General Administration Department and the offices of the Judiciary and Auditor General Offices, departmental officials, businessmen, civil societies and members of the media.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo and Myat Thandar Aung)

## Overseas Works Management Committee holds coord meeting 1/2018

OVERSEA Works Management Committee of Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population held coordination meeting 1/2018 at the meeting hall of the ministry yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Committee Chairman Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, committee members who are permanent secretaries and directors-general of Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Central Bank of Myanmar, Union Auditor-General Office, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and departmental officials.



Union Minister U Thein Swe meets with Malaysian Ambassador Mr. Zahairi Baharim in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the meeting the Union Minister said that at the moment Certificate of Identity (CI) was issued to 1,099,586 undocumented Myanmar workers in Thailand and their bio matrix data were

scanned, recorded and stored at National Data Center in Nay Pyi Taw. It can be shared with other departments if requested said the Union Minister. In addition to this bio matrix technology was used

to collect data of workers going overseas and as of 2 December a total of 1,265,688 were put on record said the Union Minister.

Sending Myanmar workers officially to Thailand through MoU system was started in 2010 and legal protection of rights as well as social protections were conducted and emphasis is placed on preventing the workers from being exploited when they go across the long Myanmar-Thailand to work in Thailand.

According to information sent by Thailand, there are over 30,000 workers from Tanintharyi Region, Ayeyawady Region, Mon State and Rakhine State who were working in the Thailand aquatic

industry sector while Thailand still requires an additional 40,000 workers in this sector and Thailand is eager to recruit these workers under the MoU system, said the Union Minister. While the Union Minister discussed more about Myanmar workers in Thailand, committee members in attendance discussed and commented on ministry wise work processes on migrant workers. After the meeting the Union Minister received a party led by Malaysia Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Zahairi Baharim in the minister's guest hall and discussed matters relating to bilateral workers affairs.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

## Historical ties put India, Myanmar on path of shared development

MYANMAR coexists peacefully with other countries and maintains good relations with them. We respect our relations with our neighbours and prioritize national development. Among our neighbours, we can say India has the longest history of relations with us, as both countries simultaneously flourished in religion and culture over thousands of years.

Myanmar is situated between China and India, both powerful countries, and has maintained good relations with them, while working to promote the living standards of our people. People from both Myanmar and India are friendly and affectionate towards one another and national leaders from both sides continue to strengthen cooperation.

Leaders from Myanmar and India have exchanged visits through successive governments. Diplomatic relations have been maintained in the civilian government's administration as well. Based on the shared history and close relations between the leaders and the people, we can prioritize our border region administration and develop our commerce and trade even further.

There are good opportunities in Myanmar and India's economic relations. Myanmar's lentils sell exceptionally well in India's market. If we can upgrade our transportation, communications, and infrastruc-

ture, which are vital components of bilateral trade, then border trade would grow exponentially.

Economic relations between the countries were thus initiated, and a trade agreement signed in 1994 gave a strong initial stimulus to the relationship.

Over the past two decades, successive Indian governments have made assiduous efforts to reach out to Myanmar, realizing its strategic importance, especially in the context of India's regional ties.

The late Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Myanmar in 1987, but the real opening up of relations took place in the early 1990s, during the government of Narasimha Rao. As the architect of India's Look East Policy, he realized that India needed to adopt a more sensible and realistic approach towards Myanmar.

Economic relations between the countries were thus initiated, and a trade agreement signed in 1994 gave a strong initial stimulus to the relationship. Incumbent Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's immediate predecessor, Dr. Manmohan Singh, visited Myanmar in 2012 with a 25-member business delegation. It was a reasonably successful trip, with the signing of 12 MOUs, including a US\$500 million line of credit, a deal to establish Indo-Myanmar border huts, an agreement for increase in airline services, and assistance for setting up centers for research in information technology and agriculture.

Myanmar and India's bilateral trade reached \$3 billion in 2016. If the Moray-Tamu border trade is outfitted with better systems and services, it will result in much positive growth. India is currently Myanmar's 11<sup>th</sup> largest investor. However, much of its investment is concentrated in the power sector and it does not have much presence in other sectors.

As Myanmar and India extend their diplomatic relations while staying true to their shared history, they will pave a path for further strengthened national development and bilateral relations.

■

# THOUGHTS ON LITERARY AWARDS AND I

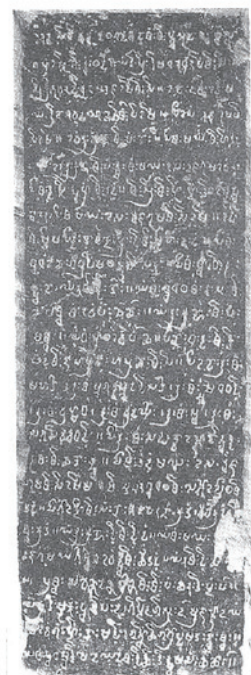
By Maung Hlaing / Chief Editor (Retd.)

“.... At the palace in the month of Nattaw, the King held a special audience to honour those who had literary accomplishments and those who had performed military exploits. It was called ‘Hpyin Htat Mingala Pwe’ meaning the ceremony of conferring titles and awarding Hpyin cloths and gowns. Men of letters and men of might were honoured by the King by giving them promotion, title, dress, gown, cloths, insignia, gift, land, houses, fief, or special Privilege...” (An excerpt from the Book “Myanmar Traditional Monthly Festivals” by Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt.)

The month of Nattaw (Nadaw), the ninth month in Myanmar calendar, is one of the significant months of the year. According to the historical records, during the time of Myanmar Kings, the nation had the tradition of honouring outstanding literati, princes and court officials with titles. And it is also designated as the month in which we make obeisance to the literati. The award presentation ceremony for the winners of lifelong Achievement National Literary Awards, National Literary Awards, and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards is held on the auspicious Sarsodaw Nay, or Literati Day which falls on 1<sup>st</sup> Waxing of Nattaw. This is to enable the people to know the full essence of literature and to value the role played by the men of letters.

If we look back at the history of Myanmar literature, it had been flourishing through the successive dynasties of Bagan, Pinya, Inwa, Toungoo, Nyaungyan, Konbaung (First), and Konbaung (Second). According to the scholars and historians, we come to know that Mya Zedi Stone Inscription is the cradle of Myanmar language and literature. Being an ordinary layman whose knowledge is limited, I cannot definitely say that there were the ones prior to the Mya Zedi Stone Inscription.

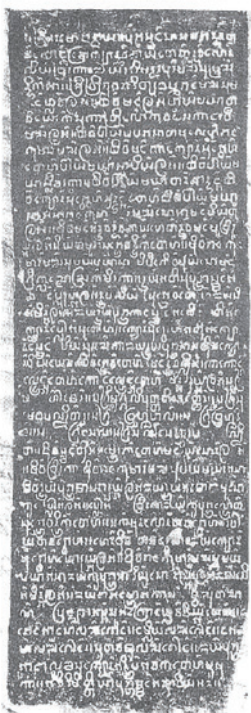
A review of Mya Zedi Stone Inscription reveals the dawn of literature of translation and literature of aesthetic. We can say so simply because Mya Zedi Stone Inscription of Bagan Dynasty was written in four languages – Mon, Myanmar, Pali and Pyu. The theme was about a son who felt conscious of his fa-



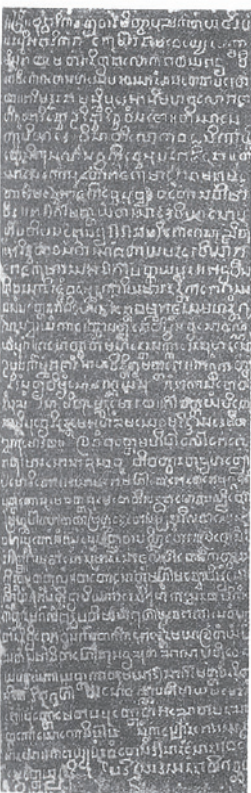
26 lines of stone inscription in Pyu.



33 lines of stone inscription in Mon.



39 lines of stone inscription in Myanmar.



41 lines of stone inscription in Pali.

Mya Zedi Stone Inscription.

ther King Kyansitha's gratitude and profound deeds of merit to repay it. In other words, the literature of aesthetic values can vividly be seen in the theme of the stone inscription.

Myanmar literature from the Bagan Dynasty to the end of the late Konbaung Period was a long history which covered ten centuries. Even from the early days, Myanmar literature, translation from other languages has been evidenced.

After the three aggressive wars waged by the British imperialists in 1825, 1852 and 1885, Myanmar became a British colony. During the colonial period, men of letters continued to carry on the banner of Myanmar literature and because of endeavours made by them, movements on national literature gathered its momentum.

In 1928, (the then) Burma Education Extension Association was formed, followed in 1933 by the Burma Book Society. In 1937, the Ngani Book Club was organized, but its books were mostly political in nature. In 1939, a translation bureau was established but it was nipped in the bud due to the war.

However, even during the war, a group of devoted literary men continued the task of creating Myanmar manuscripts while working in the Bureau of Libraries and Literature of the Directorate of Education.

People like U Thein Han, Librarian of the University of Ragoon and leading author and literary critic, carried on this work in makeshift offices on the Shwe Dagon Pagoda Hill.

All in all, a study on various stages of literary development shows that men of letters played a vital role throughout the history. In the times of Myanmar Kings, they sharpened their pens in compiling literary works that contributed much to people of successive ages. Likewise, during the imperialist period, they used their pens in the freedom struggles. Myanmar has become a sovereign independent State since 4 January, 1948 through the combination force of pen and sword. Today, men of letters are using their might of pens in the nation-building endeavours.

In doing so, we have seen the lofty aims of holding the ceremony since the time when the Burma Translation Society (BTS) was established on 26 August in 1947. Among the 14-point aims and objects, one of the objectives is “To institute or encourage research in Myanmar literature and the fine arts with a view to bringing about an improvement in mass education.”

To implement the objective, the literary award presentation ceremonies have been held since 1948. At that time, the Council of the Burma Translation Society (now Sarpay Beikman) chaired by the then Prime Minister U Nu presented the prizes (from 1948 to 1962). In 1965, the name of “National Literary Award” was introduced to the reading public.

However in 1969, the system of competition of both the works published and the manuscripts were abolished and the selection of the best one out of the works published in a calendar year was introduced. In the time of the Revolutionary Council, or the Burma Socialist Programme Party, the

hold grand ceremony to present awards including Lifelong Achievement National Literary Awards, National Literary Awards, and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards to the outstanding winners on the 1<sup>st</sup> Waxing of Nattaw every year.

Formerly, the amount of cash prize for each award was Ks 300,000. The amount has gradually increased to Ks. 500,000 in 2011. Ks. 1 million in 2012, Ks. 1.5 million in 2013. The amount of Ks. 2.5 million has been set apart for this year (2017).

The winners of Lifelong Achievement National Literary Award, the highest award in the literary world, for 2017 are writer Pho Kyawt and scholar U Tun Yi (Archaeology).

Lifelong Achievement National Literary Awards have been presented since 2001 for excellent performance in the field of Myanmar literature during their lifetime. The awardees of the past were — Sithu U Hla Kyaing (Paragu) (deceased), Sithu U Htin Phat (Maung Htin) (deceased), Sithu U Htay Maung (Htay Maung), Sithu U Lay Myaing (Lay Myaing), Sithu Daw Yin Yin (Saw Mon Nyin) (deceased), Sithu Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan), Sithu U Kyi Aye (Sinbyukyun Aung Thein), Sithu Dr. Kyaw Sein (deceased), Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt), Sithu Dr. Thaw kaung, U Win Maung (Min Yu Wai), Daw Khin

Minister for Information presented the awards. In the time of the Tatmadaw Government (State Law and Order Restoration Council and State Peace and Development Council), the Secretary-1 gave away the awards. In the time of democratic governments including the present government, the Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented the literary awards.

The number of genres for national literary award has been increased up to 16 — novel, collective short stories, collective poems (both modern/Classic) belles lettres, Myanmar culture and arts, children's literature, youth's literature, translation (general knowledge), translation (aesthetic), general knowledge (pure science), general knowledge (applied science), drama, political genre, English language book (General Knowledge), and English language book (aesthetic). From this year (2017) onwards, another two genres – Essay and Reference — have also been increased.

From this year (2017) onwards, the winners will be received ks. 1 million; Ks. 700,000, and ks. 500,000 for First, Second and Third prizes respectively.

Swe Oo (Khin Swe Oo), U Aung Thin (Aung Thin) (deceased), U Tin Maung (Theik-pan Hmu Tin) (deceased), Dr. Khin Aye (Maung Kin Min-Danubyu), Sithu U Tin Hlaing (Lae-dwin-thar Saw Chit),

U Myint Kyi (Tekkatho Myat Soe), U Win Pe (Mya Zin), U Khin Maung Soe (Maung Paw Tun), U Ko Lay (Ko Lay Inn Wa Gon Yi), U Aung Khant (Tekkatho Win Mon) (deceased), U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha), U Tha Noe (Maung Tha Noe), U Than Tun (Thein Than Tun), and U Kyaw Win (Nyo Win). Although the amount of initial cash prize was ks. 600,000, the amount for 2017 has been increased to ks. 5 million.

The Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award came into being when the manuscripts which could not be published for various reasons were invited to competition for awards. Today, the genres have been increased to 13 in number. Unlike the National Literary Award, First, Second and Third prizes are set apart for the 13 genres (except the translation genre for which only First Prize is designated.) The 13 genres are-novel, collective short stories, collective poems, belles-lettres, Myanmar culture and arts, children's literature, youth's literature, political affairs, drama, general knowledge (arts), general knowledge (pure science and applied science), translation, and English language manuscript.

From this year (2017) onwards, the winners will be received ks. 1 million; Ks. 700,000, and ks. 500,000 for First, Second and Third prizes respectively.

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4. မြန်မာစာပေသမိုင်း၊ ရန်ကုန်တက္ကသိုလ် ဝါမောက္ခ ဦးမောင်တင်၊ စပယ်ဦး၊ စတုတ္ထ အကြိမ်၊ ၁၉၈၇
5. The Global New Light of Myanmar, 24 - 11 - 2018.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

## Heads of Service Organizations appointed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr. Moe Swe Head of the Department of Public Health/ Medical Services (Magway) Department of Medical Services Ministry of Health and Sports	Director-General Department of Traditional Medicine Ministry of Health and Sports
(2) U Aung Khaing Tun Deputy Permanent Secretary/ Deputy Director-General Union Minister's Office Ministry of Planning and Finance	Director-General Project Appraisal and Progress Reporting Department Ministry of Planning and Finance

### Production of Fresh Water Fisheries and Marine Fisheries



Source: Department of Fisheries  
Information Unit : Central Statistical Organization

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on 6 December 2018)

**SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST:** During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (2°C) below December average temperatures in Kachin and Northern Shan states, (2°C) above December average temperatures in Bago and Taninthayi regions, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kayin and Mon states and about December average temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (0°C) in Haka, (4°C) in Loin, (5°C) each in Heho and Ramthlo and (6°C) in Namhsam. **BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 7 December 2018:** Isolated light rain in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states. **STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-5) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 December 2018:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 December 2018:** Partly cloudy.

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

# Myanmar fruits seek wider Chinese market

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) is negotiating with the food safety inspection body of the People's Republic of China to export Large varieties of fruit to China, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

Myanmar currently exports a variety of agro products and fruits to China, including mango-steens, rambutan, lychee, watermelon, mango, and muskmelon.

The MOALI is now in talks with China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) to put pomelo, avocado, lemon, and tissue culture banana on the list.

Some of the fruits have passed the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and need to be signed by the two parties for market access, while some are in the middle of quality checks.

Mangosteens, rambutan, lychee, watermelon, and musk-

melon have received the AQSIQ certificate. China imports watermelon, muskmelon, and mango through the Shweli gate, while mangosteens and lychee are sent to China through Sino-Myanmar trade channels. The elephant foot yam does not need to seek AQSIQ approval to enter the China market.

Chinese merchants are willing to make massive buying if Myanmar agro products receive approval from the AQSIQ, which

guarantees the safety and quality of goods, said Dr. Myint Soe, the vice president of the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP).

Chinese merchants have expressed their interest in Myanmar's Sein Ta Lone mango (Diamond Solitaire), avocado, muskmelon, chilli, elephant foot yam, cardamom, banana, and tea leaf.—GNLM ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

## Hostel in Haka gutted by fire, no casualties

A fire broke out at a basic education high school hostel in Hsukhwa Village, Haka Township, Chin State, around 11:30 p.m. on Thursday night, said police. The fire completely destroyed the wooden building, but there were no casualties. The fire reportedly started after cooking equipment was left unattended

at the hostel. Residents and fire-fighters, including members of a reserve fire brigade, brought the blaze under control within 20 minutes, with the help of a fire engine. The police have filed a case of negligence and are continuing their investigations.—District IPRD ■ *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*



Fire destory basic education high school hostel in Haka.

**PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD**

## Two arrested for possession of drugs in Mansi

ACTING on a tip, an anti-drug squad stopped and searched a motorbike on the Mantha-Hantet motor road near Manya Village in Mansi Township on 6 December and seized drugs worth about K7.8 million.

The police arrested the motorcyclist, identified as Zaw Thet (also known as Tha Gyi), and Aung Zaw Min (also known as Tha Nge) who was riding pillion for violating the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

Law. The anti-drug squad from Banmo stopped their bike while they were heading towards Hantet Village from Mantha Village around 5:30 pm on Thursday and found 3,900 yaba tablets hidden inside the vehicle.

The Mansi Township police have registered a case and are continuing their investigations to find others connected with the drug-trafficking case.—Win Nang (Kachinmye) ■ *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

## Authorities destroy 121 acres of opium fields in Tonzang Tsp

Authorities have destroyed 121 acres of opium fields in the Tonzang Township of Chin State, starting from the last week of November. From 24 November to 2 December, opium crops cultivated in 12 villages and areas around Tonzang Township were destroyed by three columns of combined troops of local police, Myanmar Tatmadaw forces, and departmental officials. The destroyed opium fields included 85 acres in Khainlan, Annlon,

Girilmwa, Kaungkhant, Hsenam, Hmwapi villages and nearby areas, 23 acres in Lontat, Sarzan, Tatzan, Bounghmwa villages and other opium fields in the area, and 8 acres in Hsaunghwe and Shamay villages, totalling 121 acres. This was part of the government's efforts to stem opium production in the country. Authorities will continue the campaign in opium poppy-growing areas.—Tonzaung IPRD ■ *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

## Meeting on loans for small-scale rubber growers held

THE State Rubber Development Committee held a meeting with owners of small-scale rubber plantations at the State Agricultural Institute in Thaton in Mon State on 6 December to discuss fixing of rubber prices and loans for growers.

The State Rubber Development Committee chairman and Kayin Ethnic Affairs Minister, Saw Aung Myint Khine, delivered the opening speech at the meeting. He spoke about the new Rubber Law, which will be a first for the country once it is enacted, and urged the relevant authori-

ties to discuss the requirements for the processing of loans to rubber growers.

Afterwards, the State Rubber Development Committee secretary and the State Agricultural Department Director, U Kyi Soe said, "Though we had set the rubber price, growers wanted free pricing for rubber. That's why we could not fix the rubber price. The price of rubber is different in some parts of Myanmar. The price of rubber should be between K 900 and K 950 per pound. But in the market, the price of rubber is K 800

per pound because of low quality. Rubber plantation owners need to introduce better production technology. Therefore, we are providing training courses for rubber cultivation, maintenance, and tapping."

The State Manager of the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank, U Kyaw Swar Hlaing, explained the procedure for obtaining loans from the bank at the meeting. "Currently, the bank is providing loans of between K 50,000 and K 100,000 per acre, with an interest rate of 8 per cent per annum. Growers need

to submit their farming land certificate (form-7) as collateral," he said. Later, the growers from four townships asked questions at the meeting.

"The Rubber Association will collect information from rubber growers by March 2019 to provide them agricultural loans. Then, it will submit the forms to the State government to disburse the loans next August. Mon State has 494,840 acres of land under rubber cultivation," according to the Rubber Development Committee.—Khon (Win Pa) ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on the 2017 Myanmar Gemstone Bill and the Myanmar Mines Rules at the second floor meeting hall of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D yesterday afternoon. The two Hluttaws were in disagreement over the bill and the rules.

The meeting was attended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Bill Committee Chairman, U Tun Aung, also known as U Tun Tun Hein, the Joint Bill Committee's deputy chairman, secretary, joint secre-

tary and committee members; the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation committees' chairmen, secretaries, and committee members; Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members; and officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Union Attorney General's Office, and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. —MNA ■

(Translated by  
Kyaw Zin Lin)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses Myanmar Gemstone Bill and Myanmar Mine Rules.  
**PHOTO: MNA**

## International sports winners for 2018 honored in award ceremony

AWARD Ceremony for sports federations and athletes who garnered medals in international games held in 2018 was held at the hall of the Department of Sport and Physical Education yesterday.

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe said, "I am honored to each athletic and supported sport federations who achieved. Tries for achievement in the games show the dignity of the country. Sport federations also need to cooperate and if there were any issues in the training, the Ministry will support the utmost."

Deputy Minister Dr. Mya

Lay Sein and officials gave awards to athletics who won medals in Southeast Asia invited 80<sup>th</sup> Singapore Open Track & Field Championship, Thailand Open Track & Field Championship 2018, AFF (U-16) Women's Championship 2018 (Football Match), AFF (U-16) Men's Championship 2018 (Football Match), 15<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asia Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship, 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Schools Games, 2<sup>nd</sup> Yunnan ASEAN International Championship 2018 (Badminton), 2018 Universities Boat Race in Malaysia, Thailand Future Arana Badminton

Open 2018, 7<sup>th</sup> South East Asia Open Archery Championship 2018, Five Countries Invited Bike Race, Princess Chulabhorn Swimming Championship 2018, Rayong NTT-ASTC Sprint Triathlon Asian Cup, Indonesia Junior Amater Open Golf Championship 2018, Thailand Open Karatedo Championship 2018, First Asia Indoor Skydiving Championships and China Open 2018, G2 Snooker International Championship 2018, 52<sup>th</sup> Asia Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship, HKODA National & Open Championship 2018 Yatch Race, Penang Open Snooker Championship 2018,

2018 Asia Junior and U23 Canoe Slalom Championship, 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Vovinam Championship, APJGA Master Final, Iran Fajr International Challenge 2018, Teen Glv.org Junior Championship Golf Championship, Mauritius International 2018 Badminton Championship and Egypt International 2018 Badminton Championship.

Afterward, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe awarded honorary certificates and prizes to the Sport Federations of Karate, Badminton, Table Tennis, pool and snooker, and Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein conferred awards to Sport Federations of

parachuting, boat race, football, volleyball, bicycle, and golf.

During the ceremony, gold medal-5,000,000 Ks, silver medal-3,000,000 Ks, and bronze medal-2,000,000 Ks were rewarded for the Asian Games. Bronze medal-Ks 500,000 Ks for the group competition and depending on the number of the participating countries, gold medal-10,000,000 Ks, silver medal-5,000,000 Ks and bronze medal-3,000,000 were rewarded for the international competitions; a total of Ks 194.1 million were rewarded.—MNA ■

(Translated by Myat  
Thandar Aung)

## Deputy Minister for Information inspects Yeku Transmission Station in Yangon



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspects the interior of Yeku Transmission Station in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun visited the Yeku Transmission Station yesterday on Waizayandar Road in

Mayangon Township.

During the visit, U Han Win Maung, the station's in-charge manager, explained about the

station's daily activities, while U Myint Htwe, Director-General of the Myanmar Radio and Television, also reviewed the operations.

The Deputy Minister then instructed the staff to maintain strict security measures, be prepared for natural disasters and fires, to install an over-head tank, and ensure employees work in a pleasant environment. He then toured the station compound and inspected the recording studio, monitoring and broadcast room, and observed recording sessions in the studios for MITV, Forever Group and MRTV Entertainment.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Fifth Enterprise India Show coming to Lotte Hotel in Yangon on 13 December

MYANMAR and India will jointly organize the 5<sup>th</sup> Enterprise India Show in Yangon from 13 to 15 December.

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the show at the Lotte Hotel will showcase India's agricultural and farm equipment, automobiles, transport, construction equipment, machinery, building materials, skills development, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, oil and gas, education, power, electricity, water, ICT, telecom, and financial services.

"The 5<sup>th</sup> Enterprise India

Show comes at a time when Myanmar is carrying out economic reforms, opening up opportunities in the trade and investment sector in the country," said the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Shri. Vikram Misri, at a press conference held at the embassy in Yangon yesterday.

The Enterprise India Show has been held four times in Yangon and Mandalay between 2011 and 2015.—Nyein Nyein ■

(Translated by JT)

# Pompeo meets S. Korean FM on DPRK denuclearization

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha here on Thursday, discussing the denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, said the US State Department.

The two sides agreed to maintain close coordination and insisted on “the final, fully verified denuclearization” of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), said Heather Nauert, spokesperson of the US State Department, in a statement.

Negotiations between

Pyongyang and Washington saw little progress in the past few months, as differences between the two sides remained over the scale of denuclearization, US sanctions, and whether to issue a war-ending declaration.

A planned high-level meeting between Pompeo and a senior DPRK official in New York was cancelled, citing scheduling issue.

Meanwhile, the momentum for talks continued. US President Donald Trump revealed earlier this month that his second meeting with DPRK’s top leader Kim

Jong Un was likely to happen in January or February next year.

The first-ever Kim-Trump meeting occurred in Singapore last June, followed by a joint statement in which the United States agreed to provide security guarantee to the DPRK in return for Pyongyang’s commitment to denuclearization.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said earlier this month that China encourages the United States and the DPRK to advance denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula. —Xinhua ■



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (R) meets with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha at the US Department of State in Washington D.C., the United States, on 6 December 2018. Mike Pompeo met with Kang Kyung-wha here on Thursday, discussing the denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, said the US State Department. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



President Maithripala Sirisena plunged Sri Lanka into crisis in October when he fired the prime minister and later dissolved parliament. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Sri Lanka court set to rule on sacking of parliament

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka) — Security was stepped up outside Sri Lanka’s top court on Friday ahead of an expected ruling on whether the president broke the law by sacking parliament last month, a decision that could potentially lead to impeachment proceedings.

President Maithripala Sirisena plunged the country into crisis on 26 October when he fired the prime minister and appointed the contentious Mahinda Rajapakse in his place. He then dissolved parliament on 9 November.

Four days later, the Supreme Court issued an interim ruling suspending Sirisena’s decree and restoring parliament, which almost immediately passed a no-confidence motion against Rajapakse.

The court’s seven-judge

bench was likely to deliver a final ruling on the constitutionality of Sirisena’s move on Friday.

“If the morning session is brief, we can expect a decision later today,” a court official said.

Sacked premier Ranil Wickremesinghe’s party and their allies, who command a majority in the 225-member assembly, have suggested that they could begin impeachment proceedings against Sirisena depending on the ruling.

Wickremesinghe’s party loyalists believe that the court decision will go in their favour, a view held by many independent lawyers.

Problems for Sirisena were compounded on Monday when the Court of Appeal suspended the entire cabinet and asked Rajapakse to explain on what authority he was holding office. —AFP ■

## Road accident deaths swell to 1.35 million each year: WHO

GENEVA (Switzerland) — Road accidents kill someone every 24 seconds, with a total of 1.35 million traffic deaths around the world each year, the World Health Organization said Friday, demanding global action.

The number of fatalities annually has swelled by around 100,000 in just three years, with road accidents now the leading killer of children and young people between the ages of five and 29, the UN health agency said in a new report.

“These deaths are an unacceptable price to pay for mobility,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

“There is no excuse for inaction. This is a problem with proven solutions,” he said.

The WHO’s Global Status Report on Road Safety, based on data from 2016, showed that the situation is worsening.

In its last report, based on data from 2013, the number of road traffic deaths was estimated at 1.25 million annually.

But despite the increase in the overall number of deaths, the rate of death compared to the growing number of people and cars in the world has stabilised in recent years.

“This suggests that existing road safety efforts in some middle and high-income countries have mitigated the situation,” WHO said.

This is largely due to better legislation around key risks, including speeding, drinking and

driving, and failing to use a seat-belt, child restraints or helmets, the report found.

Safer infrastructure like sidewalks and dedicated bike lanes and better vehicle stand-

ards have also paid off.

But while many countries have stepped up efforts to improve the situation, many poorer nations are lagging way behind.

According to Friday’s report,



Road accidents are now the leading killer of children and young people between the ages of five and 29, a World Health Organization report shows. **PHOTO: AFP**

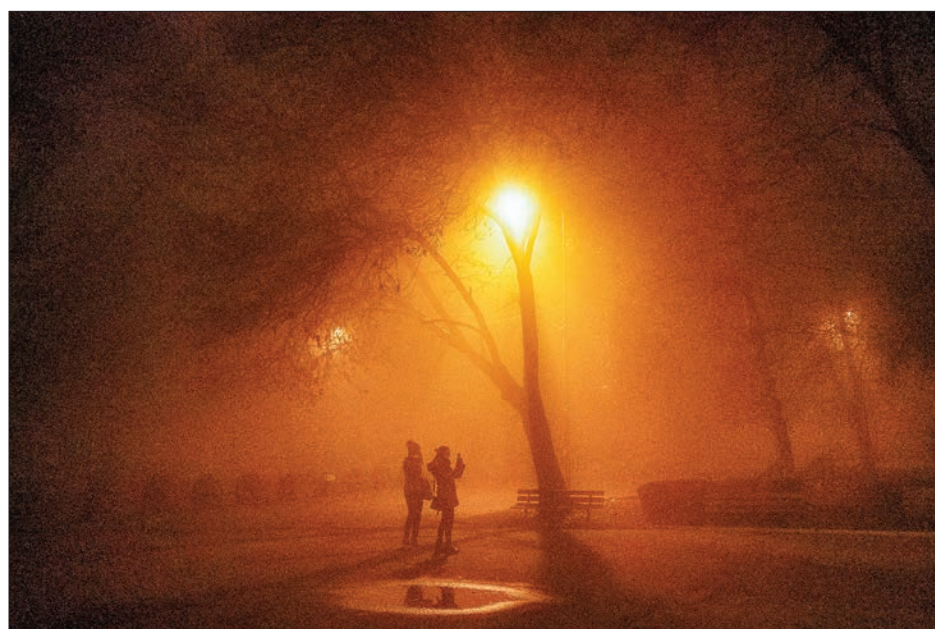
“not a single low income country has demonstrated a reduction in overall deaths”, adding that the risk of a road traffic death remains three times higher there than in high income countries.

The death rate in Africa is particularly high, counting 26.6 annual traffic deaths for every 100,000 citizens, compared with 9.3 in Europe, where the death rate is the lowest.

Friday’s report also shows a devastating disregard for the most vulnerable in traffic, with more than half of all those killed in road accidents either walking or on two wheels.

Pedestrians and cyclists account for 26 per cent of all traffic deaths, with the figure as high as 44 per cent in Africa. —AFP ■

# In the Balkans, winter cheer is darkened by a toxic smog



Air pollution levels were at the 'very unhealthy' level in the Bulgarian capital Sofia this week. **PHOTO: AFP**

SARAJEVO (Bosnia and Herzegovina) — Winter is here and coal is burning, enveloping the Balkans in a toxic smog and turning its cities into some of the most polluted on the planet.

As hundreds of nations gather in Poland for the UN's COP24 climate summit this week, residents in this corner of Europe are wondering when their governments will do anything to address an annual plague that is killing thousands.

The pollution levels reached alarming heights in early December. On Tuesday, the Macedonian capital Skopje was ranked the third most polluted city in the world, while Sarajevo was fifth, according to the monitor AirVisual.

Pristina, the capital of Kosovo which relies on two coal-fired plants for more than 95 per cent of its electricity, was not far behind.

"In three decades of teaching, I have never seen so many children cough and get sick," said Vesna Delevska, a 56-year-old teacher in Skopje.

"On the worst days, many parents don't even send their children to school," she told AFP, describing the conditions as "unbearable".

Lignite-fired power plants across the region, many of which are old and pollute heavily, plus the burning of coal to warm individual homes, pump the air with toxins.

In Skopje and Sarajevo, a ring of mountains

helps trap the hazardous air in valleys where residents live, shrouding them in a grey fog.

An October UN report said fossil fuel emissions must be slashed by half in the next 12 years to limit global temperature rises.

But Balkan governments are bucking the European trend by boosting their investment coal, with plans to build new power plants across the region.

## Human toll

The effects are plain to see. Five Balkan cities with coal or lignite-based industries are among Europe's top ten most polluted cities, according to a 2017 World Health Organization (WHO) report.

They include Tuzla

(Bosnia), Pljevlja (Montenegro), Skopje, Tetovo and Bitola (Macedonia).

The only ones benefiting from the pollution are those selling air purifiers, which one vendor in Macedonia's capital said are flying off the shelves "like hot cakes".

"People are emptying their wallets to breathe clean air," said Vanco, who runs a store in Skopje and declined to give his last name.

An air purifier costs about 400 euros (\$450) — close to the average monthly salary in Macedonia and several of its Balkan neighbours.

But residents are digging into their savings, "even borrowing to buy the purifiers", said Vanco. "Especially families with children," he added.

The economic and human costs are high in a poor region with little extra cash to spare.

According to a WHO study, pollution cost the Western Balkans countries more than \$55 billion in 2010. It also caused more than 36,000 premature

deaths that year across the region, which is home to 23 million people — a proportion six times higher than in a country like France. Since then, there have been no major efforts to curb pollution. This winter the Macedonian Ministry of Health

has announced the distribution of masks to 43,000 chronically ill people. But Jane Dimeski, an activist with the citizen group "STOP air pollution", sees it as a "short-term response...more than a serious fight against pollution". —AFP ■

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## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

**M.V RATANA THIDA VOY. NO. (129 W/E)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V RATANA THIDA VOY. NO. (129 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T./A.I.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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

## Egypt's fertile Nile Delta threatened by climate change

KAFR AL-DAWAR (Egypt) — Lush green fields blanket northern Egypt's Nile Delta, but the country's agricultural heartland and its vital freshwater resources are under threat from a warming climate.

The fertile arc-shaped basin is home to nearly half the country's population, and the river that feeds it provides Egypt with 90 per cent of its water needs.

But climbing temperatures and drought are drying up the mighty Nile — a problem compounded by

rising seas and soil salinization, experts and farmers say.

Combined, they could jeopardise crops in the Arab world's most populous country, where the food needs of its 98 million residents are only expected to increase.

"The Nile is shrinking. The water doesn't reach us anymore," says Talaat al-Sisi, a farmer who has grown wheat, corn and other crops for 30 years in the southern Delta governorate of Menoufia.

"We've been forced to tap into the groundwater and we've stopped growing rice," a cereal known for its greedy water consumption, he adds. By 2050, the region could lose up to 15 per cent of its key agricultural land due to salinization, according to a 2016 study published by Egyptian economists. The yield of tomato crops could drop by 50 per cent, the study said, with staple cereals like wheat and rice falling 18 and 11 per cent respectively. —AFP ■

## Myanmar International Business Academy invites application for the following vacant position

Head of Sales and Marketing	Foreigner	Male/Female	(1) post
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Above (35) years old, prefer MBA Degree</li><li>• Have experienced in Territory Management</li><li>• Develops and implements strategic marketing plans and sales plans and forecasts to achieve corporate objectives</li><li>• Develops and manages sales/marketing operating budgets</li><li>• Plans and oversees advertising and promotion activities including print, online, electronic media and direct mail</li><li>• Oversees and evaluates market research and adjusts marketing strategy to meet changing market and competitive conditions</li><li>• Monitors continuously competitor products, sales and marketing activities</li><li>• Establishes and maintains relationship with key strategic partners</li><li>• Guides preparation of marketing activity reports and present to management</li><li>• Directs sales forecasting activities and set performance goals accordingly</li><li>• Directs staffing, training and performance evaluations to develop and controls sales and marketing programs</li><li>• Coordinates liaison between sales department and other departments</li><li>• Prepares periodic sales report showing sales volume, potential sales and areas of proposed client base expansion.</li><li>• Create excellent customer services</li></ul>			

Academic Director	Foreigner	Male/Female	(1) post
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Above (35) years old</li><li>• Prefer MBA Degree (or) Ph.D.</li><li>• Have career experience in academic sector</li><li>• Have the ability to lead, inspire and support an academic community</li><li>• Have driven, initiative and enthusiasm</li><li>• Have ability to accomplish multi-tasks and lead the team</li><li>• Manages, oversees and supervise academic processes</li><li>• Plan and lead professional development activities for academic team as well as for faculty</li><li>• Recruit, hire, train and evaluate the performance of the staff</li><li>• Set educational standards and goals, and help establish policies and procedures to carry them out</li><li>• Coordinate with other Academic Department Directors in sharing faculty and other educational and instructional ideas</li><li>• Provide academic advising and support to students throughout the program</li><li>• Provide updates, key indicators, and other relevant information to management</li><li>• Lead new student orientations, faculty meetings, training and workshops</li></ul>			

[hr-admin@mibaedu.com](mailto:hr-admin@mibaedu.com)

+95(0)255021899

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Building (9), MICT Park, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar.



People attend the opening ceremony and inauguration of the new museum of black civilisations, in Dakar, on 6 December 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Black heritage museum, 'crucible of creativity', opens in Dakar

DAKAR (Senegal) — A museum showcasing black heritage from the dawn of time to the modern era opened in the Senegalese capital Dakar on Thursday.

The opening came as African countries press harder for the restitution of artwork from their former colonial masters — and as France made its first steps in that direction, pledging to return artworks to Benin.

The Museum of Black Civilisations will foster the "dialogue of cultures" and offer a "new view of Africa and its diaspora, which recognises our part in the great human adventure," Senegalese President Macky Sall said as he opened the museum.

"Today rekindles in us the precursors of pan-Africanism and African identity," Sall said after cutting the symbolic ribbon at the ceremony. Among the guests was Chinese Culture Minister Luo Shugang, whose country financed the project to the tune of 30 million euros (\$34 million).

Spread over 14,000 square metres (150,000 square feet), the museum has a capacity to house 18,000 pieces, said museum director Hamady Bocoum.

Both Bocoum and the museum's lead scientist Ibrahima Thioub said the collection, which includes megaliths dating back more than 1,700 years ago alongside contemporary art, would both honour the past and look to the future.

It should not be "a place of nostalgia but a crucible of creativity, a factory of self-esteem," said Thioub, rector of Dakar's Cheikh-Anta-Diop University.

### A dream fulfilled -

Such a museum was the dream of Senegal's first president Leopold Sedar Senghor,

among the drivers of the Negritude literary movement born in the 1960s.

The poet, who was Senegal's president from 1960 to 1980, spoke of it at the first World Festival of Black Arts, held in Dakar in 1966.

"We are in the continuity of history," Sall said Thursday. "Through the ages, Africa invented, fashioned and transformed, thus constantly participating in the flow of innovations. Our duty is to remain vigilant sentinels of the heritage of the ancients."

The museum is among several new — or overhauled — facilities springing up around Africa that bolster growing demands for the restitution of artworks spirited out of the continent since colonial times.

Late last month France announced it would return 26 cultural artefacts to Benin. It was a first gesture acting on the findings of a study commissioned by President Emmanuel Macron on repatriating African treasures held by French museums.

Senegal was quick to call for the restitution of some 10,000 pieces of Senegalese art from France.

Ivory Coast followed suit the next day, asking for the return of around 100 works of art.

In a reflection of the museum's embrace of the ages, Thursday's ceremony was followed by a show featuring traditional music and dance as well as rap and slam performances.

The hundreds of guests also heard homages to giants of black civilisation including American civil rights hero Martin Luther King and Burkinabe revolutionary Thomas Sankara. —AFP ■

## Remicone, Seoul's trendy ice cream parlour brings a hipster vibe to Yangon

ONE of Korea's most Instagrammable ice cream shops, Remicone, announced the opening of its first Southeast Asian store in Yangon, Myanmar on Monday. Known for its playful flavors and retro-chic look, this premium ice cream shop will offer Yangon's dessert lovers a unique hangout space, perfect for friend outings and sweet date nights.

Introduced in 2014 by a Ko-

rean indie fashion and design magazine called "No Name", Remicone gained its popularity from its quirky and bizarre customizable soft-serve ice cream concoctions and desserts.

"We are so excited to open Remicone at "The Central Sweets". This ice cream shop has already captured the hearts of so many dessert lovers in Korea and we can't wait for it to do

the same for Yangon. The design of the shop is also not only cute and ideal for social media photos, but it will also create a fun atmosphere where people with a sweet-tooth can share some treats together," said Chris Lee, Executive Director of Marga Group. "Plus, the experience of mixing all those delicious flavors is so cool, we can just foresee people flocking to it to have a good time." —GNLM ■



**PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

## Nobel Peace Prize to honour champions of struggle against sexual violence

OSLO — Champions of the fight against sexual violence, Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege and Yazidi activist Nadia Murad, a former captive of jihadists, will on Monday (Dec 10) receive the Nobel Peace Prize, which this year highlights rape as a weapon of war. Murad, 25, and Mukwege, 63, will be jointly presented with the prize in Oslo, after they were announced as winners by the Norwegian Nobel Committee in October for "for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict".

Mukwege, called "Doctor Miracle" for his surgical skills, has spent 20 years treating the horrendous wounds and intense emotional trauma inflicted on women in DR Congo's war-torn east. He has been scathing about the world's lacklustre response to sexual violence in conflict.

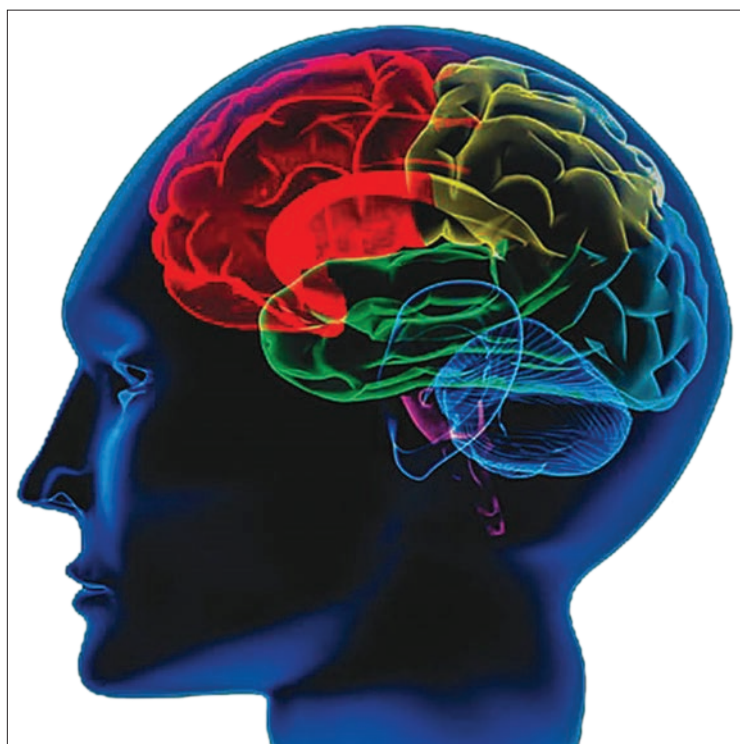
"We have been able to draw a red line against chemical weapons, biological weapons and nuclear arms," he told AFP in 2016. "Today we must also draw a

red line against rape as a weapon of war." Fellow laureate Murad has become a tireless campaigner for the rights of Yazidis since surviving the horrors of captivity under the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria group, who stormed across swathes of Iraq and Syria targeting her Kurdish-speaking community. Captured in 2014, she suffered forced marriage, beatings and gang-rape before she was able to escape. The pair

have dedicated their prize to the hundreds of thousands of women around the world who have endured sexual violence. "Denis Mukwege is the helper who has devoted his life to defending these victims. Nadia Murad is the witness who tells of the abuses perpetrated against herself and others," said Nobel committee chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen, when the award was announced on 5 October. —AFP ■



Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege and Yazidi activist Nadia Murad, a former captive of jihadists, will receive the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, on 10 December 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**



Graphic depicting sections of human brain. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Chinese scientists develop bioactive material for skin regeneration

BEIJING — Chinese scientists have designed a new biodegradable and bioactive material that can enhance wound-healing and skin regeneration.

It is difficult for skin wounds to completely heal in cases of large-area burns, severe microbial infections and diabetes. Chronic wounds greatly increase the pain and medical costs of patients. There is therefore a great need for biomedical materials that can facilitate wound-healing and efficient anti-infection capacities.

Researchers with Xi'an Jiaotong University in northwest China's Shaanxi Province have designed a kind of biomimetic antibacterial material that can

facilitate skin regeneration.

It has skin-like elasticity and good biocompatibility, and can help prevent multidrug-resistant bacterial infection. In experiments conducted on mice, the material enhanced the wound-healing and regeneration of skin appendages such as hair follicles, and finally lead to skin tissue regeneration.

The designed biomaterial could become a competitive multifunctional dressing for bacteria-infected wound-healing and skin regeneration. The research provides a new strategy for the design of biomedical materials for regenerative medicines. The study was published in the journal ACS Nano. —Xinhua ■

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## Tool designed to track steps of cells' development: study

CHICAGO — Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have developed a new tool described as a "flight data recorder" for developing cells, illuminating the paths cells take as they progress from one type to another.

The study was published on 5 December in the journal Nature.

Using the flight data recorder, the researchers performed experiments that uncovered some surprising details about the specific routes taken by cells that successfully completed their flight paths.

The technique harnesses the natural properties of a virus that inserts tiny DNA "barcodes," called "CellTags," into each cell. As the cells divide, their unique barcodes are passed down to all their descendant cells. The

CellTagging technique keeps track of which cells share common ancestors and how far back that common ancestor is found in the lineage.

The researchers found that if a certain gene, called Mettl7a1, was turned on in cells, they were three times as likely to successfully reprogram compared with cells in which this gene is inactive. Another interesting finding was that the cells that were not successful in their reprogramming didn't just end up all over the map. They appeared to converge at the same dead end, tending to revert back to look like the original cell type.

The tool could reveal cellular "reprogramming" routes that might involve reverting skin cells back to different types of stem cells that could then mature into a new liver or other vital organ.

Among many potential uses, the tool also could be applied in cancer research, recording the wrong turns normal cells might take to develop into tumors, according to the researchers.

"We are pleased and encouraged to see a number of cancer research groups adopting this technology in their labs," said senior author Samantha A. Morris, an assistant professor of developmental biology at the university. "With this method, they can find out which cells become the cancer and trace their ancestors back in time to see what they were doing early on."

The new information may also help researchers identify the best "pre-flight" conditions to expose the cells to in order to increase the likelihood that their journeys will be successful. —Xinhua ■

## Cosmonauts aboard orbital outpost start experiment to print living tissue on 3D-bioprinter

MOSCOW — Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko who arrived at the International Space Station (ISS) on 3 December has started an experiment to print living tissues on the 3D-bioprinter delivered to the orbital outpost by the new crew, Russia's State Space Corporation Roscosmos reported on Thursday.

"As of now, the first results of the experiment have already been obtained: the organic construct of the mouse's thyroid gland has been created in the zero-gravity conditions," the Roscosmos press office said.

Three ISS members - Rus-

sian cosmonaut Sergei Prokopyev, US astronaut Serena Aunon-Chancellor and German astronaut Alexander Gerst (the European Space Agency) are due to return to Earth after their long expedition on 20 December. They will bring to Earth the tissues and samples obtained during the experiment for their subsequent study. In early 2019, the results of the data obtained will be made public, Roscosmos said.

The Organ-Avt bioprinter developed to carry out the world's first experiment for printing living tissues was delivered to the space station on

3 December aboard the manned Soyuz MS-11 spacecraft.

The magnetic 3D-bioprinter has been devised to grow living tissues and eventually organs and it can also be used to study the influence of outer space conditions on living organisms during lengthy flights.

The experiment has been devised by 3D Bioprinting Solutions, a bio-technical research laboratory, which is a Russian start-up and a subsidiary of Invitro company.

The plans to deliver the bioprinter's first copy failed after the aborted launch of the Soyuz-FG booster with the manned



Russian cosmonaut Sergei Prokopyev, US astronaut Serena Aunon-Chancellor and German astronaut Alexander Gerst arrived at the ISS on 3 December. PHOTO: TASS

Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft from the Baikonur spaceport on 11 October.

The magnetic 3D-bioprinter project, which is being implemented by 3D Bioprinting Solu-

tions, Roscosmos and Invitro, was launched in 2016. Under the project, the bioprinter has been created to print living tissues and organic constructs in the zero-gravity conditions. —Tass ■

## Rakhine United recruits former Shan United's midfielder Chit Su Moe

RAKHINE United F.C., which is preparing for the next season of the Myanmar National League, has recruited a local midfielder Chit Su Moe from Shan United, according to the Myanmar National League.

Chit Su Moe's contract with Shan United expired recently, and the player and Rakhine United have reached an agreement for his transfer from Shan United.

"Chit Su Moe will be a reliable player for our team. The reason we recruited him is that he is an experienced player and

a talented midfielder," said U Tun Tun Win, the manager of the Rakhine United F.C.

"I have transferred to Rakhine United as I like new challenges. The head coach of Rakhine United is my former trainer and that's the main reason I signed up with the team. I will do my best for the club and work towards playing again in the Myanmar national football team," said Chit Su Moe.

Rakhine United stood at ninth in the previous Myanmar National League. —Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■



Former Shan United's reliable midfielder, Chit Su Moe. PHOTO: MNL



A player from Myanmar (white) fights for the ball in yesterday's match of the AFC U-20 Futsal Championship at Haumark Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand. PHOTO: MFF

## Myanmar lose to Thailand in AFC U-20 Futsal qualifiers

HOST Thailand defeated Myanmar 7-1 in the AFC U-20 Futsal Championship ASEAN Zone qualifiers at the Haumark Stadium in Bangkok yesterday.

Futsal powerhouse Thailand dominated Myanmar from the early minutes of the match, scoring the first goal at 6 minutes of play. The opening goal was scored by Supakorn Sangom.

Three minutes later, Myanmar made a goal for Thailand. During play, the ball accidentally hit Myanmar's Pyae Phy

Maung, changed direction, and went into the net, and Thailand's score changed to 2-0.

Thailand chalked up goals with speed, with Piyapat Aeimwilai and Krit Aransanyalak each scoring at 15 and 20 minutes. Two minutes into the second half, Myanmar's Htet Wai Thein earned a goal, but it was quickly followed by another goal by Aeimwilai from Thailand.

Thailand again used power play at 27 and 38 minutes, with Chutipong Suraditanunt and

Chutinan Raksasap scoring a goal each.

Five teams are participating in the ASEAN Zone qualifiers - Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The top three teams will qualify for the finals next year.

With three losses in the qualifiers, Myanmar's chances of entering the next stage of the championship are over. Team Myanmar still has one match left. It will play Indonesia on 8 December. —Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

## France set for women's World Cup draw as countdown to 2019 finals begins

PARIS (France) — With just six months to go until the tournament's opening game in Paris, anticipation is growing ahead of the 2019 women's World Cup as the French capital prepares to host the draw for the finals on Saturday.

The spotlight on the women's game continues to grow, and next year's competition in France — which runs from 7 June to 7 July — will be the most lucrative yet.

There remains a chasm, though, compared to the men's World Cup that will take some years yet to close, in financial terms and in terms of the media spotlight.

However, there are some advantages to that — twelve months



USA players hold aloft the World Cup trophy after winning the 2015 tournament in Canada. FILE PHOTO: AFP

ago, President Vladimir Putin took the stage in the Kremlin at a politicised draw for the World Cup in Russia, but this time at least the football can be the sole focus.

The hosts will be among the

top seeds for the 24-team tournament, in which the United States will defend their crown while Olympic champions Germany will be strong contenders too.

Competition is likely to be

intense, however — 2011 winners Japan will fancy their chances, as will Phil Neville's England, semi-finalists at the last World Cup and at Euro 2017.

"We've got the experience

now but we want to make sure we go all the way," England star Fran Kirby told The Guardian recently.

Getting beyond the group stage may not be too hard for them, even if the overall standard of women's football is improving all the time.

"I think this will be the first women's World Cup ever that will be highly competitive all the way through," Australia coach Alen Stajcic told the Sydney Morning Herald.

Beyond the leading names, this is also a big occasion for Scotland, whose women have qualified for their first World Cup in the same country where their men last went to a major tournament, back in 1998. —AFP ■